

COLES COUNTY LIAISON

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# Illinois

## Coles County

### Cabin

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
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## The Home He Did Not Occupy

BY WILLIAM E. BARTON

THERE still live on Goose Nest Prairie men and women who remember Thomas Lincoln, the father of the President. He died in 1851, which is almost seventy-two years ago. A man of eighty was eight or nine years old when Thomas Lincoln died; and there are several men and women there who were his neighbors and who are more than eighty years of age. Having occasion to visit this locality recently, I called individually on a number of these old people, who are all intelligent farmers or wives of farmers, and who, so far as I know, have not previously been interviewed. I desired to get as ac-

curate a picture as I could of the memory which this humble and unambitious man left in the minds of those who were children when he was an old man. Of that I shall tell in another place and at another time.

The thing I wish now to relate, which I suppose to be entirely new to readers of Lincoln literature, has to do with the home of Thomas Lincoln. It was a double log house, with a chimney of stone between the two rooms. The logs were hewn, and the house was a good one of its type. The widow of Thomas Lincoln lived there and died more than twenty years after his death. The house, deserted, was removed to Chicago for exhibition purposes, and disappeared. It is not known what became of it. The site is now a cornfield. Several blasted black locust trees are there, and Sallie Lincoln's lilac bush still grows. The old well is also visible, and a pile of stone marks the place of the chimney. The spot is wholly neglected, and is very seldom visited by any one who has interest in its historic character.

This is what the neighbors told me about it:

Thomas Lincoln, or Uncle Tommy, as they called him, never lived in that house. He lived in a round-log house close by.

A round-log house, you understand, is not a round house, but a rectangular house, built of round, or unhewn logs. The round-log house is the more primitive sort. The logs are notched at the ends to make the corners, and are erected into a habitation, the cracks being more or less perfectly chinked with wood and mud.

Uncle Tommy, they said, lived in a round-log house. His son Abraham bought the farm for him, and made out a deed so that his father and his step-mother were to be assured of a home. Thomas erected the kind of house that could most quickly and most easily be erected, hoping for the time when he should be able to build and occupy a hewn-log house, and a double house at that.

The time did not come speedily, the years went by, and Uncle Tommy Lincoln was still in his round-log house. But at length he proceeded to the building of the home which for so long he had planned. By the time it was ready for occupancy, he was sick with his last illness.

His step-daughter set up a loom in the new house, and did some weaving there, but Uncle Tommy Lincoln lay sick unto death in the old round-log house.

On the day before he died, Uncle Tommy Lincoln insisted upon being moved. His step-son, John D. Johnston, and old Benaiah Wright carried him the short distance into the new house, where he slept one night, and the next day died. His funeral was held in the new hewn-log house, and Thomas Goodman preached a sermon which the children heard a half mile away and remember, but I did not meet any one who was actually present at the funeral, and I doubt if any such person now lives.

A celebration on the day of my visit brought out the old Lincoln neighbors, and in the noontime interval between meetings I gathered them together and heard what they had to tell about the parents of the great President. The above story was not contradicted, and I have every reason to suppose it true.

It seemed to me a kind of pathetic commentary upon the ambitions which fall just short of accomplishment. Mohammed, coming in sight of Damascus, and turning back when he saw the vision of its loveliness, saying that no man might enter two heavens; Moses, guiding the people of Israel through the wilderness, but dying in sight of the promised land which he was never permitted to enter, have their counterpart in the lives of multitudes of men and women. They are forever dreaming they dwell in marble halls, and dying on the steps of a habitation just a little better than they can afford to occupy. They plan the hewn-log double cabin, and spend their days in the round-log house.

I could not help feeling glad that Thomas Lincoln had one night in the new double log cabin made of hewn logs, largely the product of his own labor. One night was not very much, but it was better than nothing. And Thomas Lincoln's son lived in the White House.

*The Wellspring  
14 Beacon Street  
Boston, Mass.*

Saturday, February 10, 1923



(incomplete)  
veiled by Dr. S. A. Campbell of this city.

The new monument is of Barre granite, declared by monument men to be a very fine specimen of that stone. It is seven and a half feet in

height, and stands on a granite base five feet long and three feet wide.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Reynolds of Janesville, pastor of Shiloh church. The music was donated by Pearson's band of Mattoon.

Thanks were due to H. B. Grafton of Jerico for donating the lumber for the platform, and to J. A. Dryden and R. H. Baker for erecting it.

Mrs. Susan D. Baker and the ladies of the community served lunch to the fifteen American Legion men who handled the traffic.

With the performance of these ceremonies and farewells by the visitors to the kindly people of the rural community, the Lions and their followers returned to this city.

#### Committees in Charge.

The following committees of local Lions, appointed by President Frank R. Jones, are responsible for the perfect carrying out of the exercises of the day:

Executive committee—Don Lacy, chairman; Harry I. Hannah, F. L. Lyons, Dr. T. O. Freeman, Dr. B. H. Hardinger, Harry E. Reed and C. H. Douglas.

Reception committee—Dr. T. O. Freeman, chairman; E. T. Guthrie, E. F. Kelley, Dr. D. C. Baughman and Rev. Marion Hull.

Luncheon committee—C. H. Douglas, chairman; C. L. Moore, S. L. McClintock, Dr. Paul M. Hardinger and Theodore Rathe.

Decorations committee—H. E. Reed, chairman; W. W. Holliday, C. H. Fletcher, William Gross, Henry S. Newgent and Herbert Walker.

Invitation and program committee—Harry I. Hannah, Miss Helen Spitz, Dr. B. H. Hardinger, J. J. Stephenson, B. J. Bleakley, Roy Elliott and B. H. Tivnen.

Publicity—E. S. Katz, chairman; D. B. Grounds, R. L. Fickes, J. M. Bilss, Grover C. Egenbaum and Montle Spitz.

Transportation committee—A. K. Gibson, chairman; L. E. Brooks, F. L. Lyons, C. C. Glasscock, B. P. Thurber, Harold Tolle, Leonard Armes, C. C. Carter, M. L. Olmsted, D. S. Campbell, C. C. Powers, Louis Rothenpieler, H. F. Presler, G. W. Peers and Robert Bills.

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MATTOON, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 16, 1924

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# SOME EARLY HISTORY OF COLES COUNTY

## Home-Coming Talk Given by Dr. S. E.

Thomas Today

7-7-24  
Interesting facts about the early history of Coles county were unfolded this afternoon by Dr. S. E. Thomas of Charleston, professor of history in the Teachers' College in an address which featured the program of Coles County Day at Peterson Park.

### First Settlement in 1824.

"Coles county is a comparatively young county," said Dr. Thomas. "While Illinois was made a state in 1818, 118 years after the first settlement was made, there wasn't a settlement in Coles county until 1820. This was a temporary settlement a short distance northwest of Ashmore. The first permanent settlement was made in 1824 by a man named Parker, at Parker's Ford, on the Embarras river, southeast of Charleston."

"Between 1824 and 1831," continued Dr. Thomas, "fewer than 50 men took out patents for public land. All told, fewer than 5,000 acres had been claimed as late as 1830. In fact, Coles county in 1830 was still virtually virgin prairie."

### County's First Highway.

"The first highway in Coles county was the Old State road, running east and west, just south of Mattoon. It extended from Terre Haute through Paris, Charleston, old Paradise and Shelbyville to Vandalia. The next important trail built was from the Wabash river through Marshall to Charleston."

"In 1830 there wasn't a settlement in Coles county north of the Old State road. Up in Douglas county, there were just 280 acres of land claimed. After 1830, settlements rapidly sprang up, with the heaviest at Oakland and Cocks Mills. As late as 1860, however, there was still some public land unclaimed."

"Transportation in those days was terribly slow and monotonous," said Dr. Thomas. "The only modes of travel were ox cart, horses and on foot. A trip of 20 to 30 miles in a day was considered a long dis-

tance. Railroad travel was not available at all until 1856.

"It is interesting to think of the simple manner in which the early settlers of Coles county lived. Most all the people lived in log cabins, but a few dwelt in small frame or brick houses. All abodes were small. Two story log houses of four rooms, two up and two down, were considered palatial.

"The farm woman then lived more out of doors than the farm woman of today. She helped with nearly all the work. Most of the farm work, too, was done by hand. The most complicated farm implement available then was the cradle. The reaper had been invented, but it was not in use."

### Big Day at Park.

Several thousand people were in attendance at the various activities of Coles County Day at Peterson Park. Hundreds participated in a picnic dinner served at noon, with many from all sections of Coles and adjoining counties attending. This afternoon's program included a concert by the Oakland Township High School band, music by various Coles county quartets, a game of softball between the East Oakland and Humbolt Farm Bureau teams and athletic contests for boys and girls of all ages and sizes.

# TO WEEKLY EAGLE ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY, 1928

PRICE 5 CENTS

th some flowers she gathered  
nas Lincoln's grave:

precious flowers will claim a

your treasures rare,  
be Lincoln's father's grave,  
s tended them with care.

he pleasant April showers,  
ashine and the dew.  
ght pluck these little buds,  
ad today to you."

## of Mrs. Susan D. Baker

ma Eagle, December 20, 1927)

ille, Ill., Dec. 27.—Mrs. Susan  
passed away Sunday after-  
1 o'clock at the home of her  
Mrs. James Dryden, in  
e, with whom she had made  
for several years. She had  
failing health for more than  
nd seriously ill since last  
r, when she suffered a stroke  
sis, from which she never  
onsciousness.

neral took place from Shi-

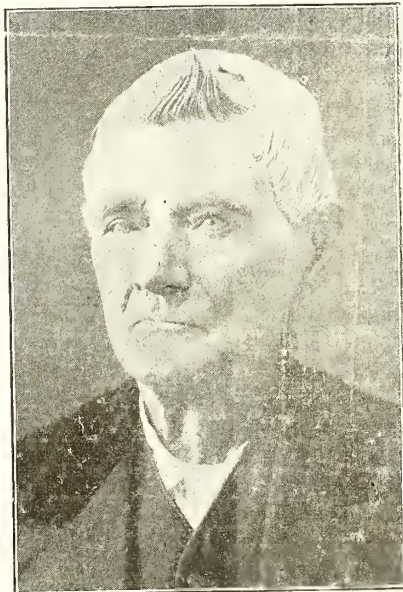
loh church at 11 o'clock, Rev. J. M.  
Mason officiating. Burial was in Shi-  
loh cemetery.

Mrs. Baker was 76 years old. She  
was born within less than a mile of  
the house in which she died, being a  
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Rodg-  
ers of Pleasant Grove township. She  
is survived by five children, Mrs.  
James Dryden of Janesville, William  
Baker of Dodge City, Kan., Dr. J. G.  
Baker of Mattoon, Lewis Baker of  
Charleston and Robert Baker of  
Greenup. Mr. Baker died in January,  
1918.

Mrs. Baker was a member of the  
Presbyterian church, and was the one  
into whose charge the upkeep of the  
graves of Thos. and Sarah Bush Lin-  
coln was personally given by Abra-  
ham Lincoln on the occasion of his  
last visit to Janesville. She was  
active in establishing and maintain-  
ing the Shiloh Memorial Association  
at Janesville.

Mrs. Baker was devoted to this

cause and labored for the improve-  
ment and maintenance of the ceme-  
tery in which the bodies of the father  
and stepmother of President Lincoln  
rest. On the occasion of the marking  
of the Thomas Lincoln Trail and the  
dedication of the new Thomas and  
Sarah Bush Lincoln monument, Mrs.  
Baker was given a prominent part in  
the ceremonies. She recited poems of  
her own composition in honor of the  
Lincoln memories. Again at the state  
highway department's meeting at To-  
ledo last summer, Mrs. Baker appear-  
ed as a proponent for a route for the  
new hard road to pass near Shiloh  
cemetery reciting her ode.



DENNIS F. HANKS.

The following named persons made  
the trip, known as "The Lincoln Trail,"  
from Spencer county, Indiana to Deca-  
tur, Illinois in the year 1830:

Abraham Lincoln, then 21 years old,  
piloted a wagon in company with John  
Hall. This was verified when inter-  
viewed by his neighbor and life-long  
friend, Mrs. Sarah D. Baker.

Thomas Lincoln and wife, Sarah Bush  
Johnson, (Lincoln's father and step-  
mother.)

Dennis F. Hanks and wife, Elizabeth,  
daughter of Sarah Bush Johnson.

Mrs. Nancy Hanks Shoaff, mother of



# SUPPLEMENT TO THE LERNA WEEKLY EAGLE LINCOLN ANNIVERSARY

VOL XXXIX

LERNA, ILLINOIS, FEBRUARY, 1928

PRICE 5 CENTS

## Guards Graves of the Lincolns



In Shiloh Cemetery, near Janelville, Ill., about eleven miles southeast of Mattoon, in the shadow of a little country church, are buried Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and step-mother of the martyred president. Their graves, until the last two or three years, were practically forgotten except by a faithful few living in that vicinity. These few in November, 1922, formed the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Club to care for the graves. Mrs. Sarah D. Baker, 79 years old, mother of Dr. J. G. Baker, living in Mattoon, helped to organize the Memorial Club, and is now its president.

Born and reared in the vicinity of this little cemetery, Mrs. Baker has for years taken care of the graves herself. It is most interesting to visit the neat little white farmhouse at Janelville where Mrs. Baker lives with her daughter and son-in-law. She is a sweet-faced little old lady, whose eyes are now dimmed to almost blindness and whose body is frail, but whose spirit remains undaunted. A fire of determination still burns brightly within her to work on to the last for her cause.

The land where Shiloh Cemetery is now located was entered in 1836 by a Mr. Sumner and a few years later was bought by Isaac W. Rodgers, father of Mrs. Baker, who in turn deeded the land over to three trustees to be used as a Cemetery.



It is to be regretted there is no paved road leading to this spot, not even a well-kept one, so that in the winter it is almost impossible to visit the place.

After making their home in Macon county, near Decatur, Ill., the Lincolns moved in 1837 to a little farm two miles southeast of Lerna, Ill. About four years later they moved to a place about two miles east of Janelville, where they lived until the death of Thomas Lincoln in January, 1851.

Mrs. Baker for many years has gathered data from the neighbors and others who knew the Lincolns personally, has jotted down dates and has kept an account of the information she has been able to obtain. She also has had some interesting experiences of her own. In speaking of Abraham Lincoln, she says: "The first I knew of Abraham Lincoln was when I was a very small girl, about six years old. He acted as my father's lawyer. Father owned a herd of horses which strayed a considerable distance from home and met another herd owned by a man named Steward. When the two herds parted to return to their own homes, one colt of my father's went with the other herd. One reason I can so well remember the incident is that I was particularly interested in this colt, as it was the only one we had, and we felt the loss very much. Father advertised for it and was informed that the colt was with Mr. Steward's herd. When he went to see it he recognized it, but Mr. Steward declared that it was one of his own and that he would not give

up. He was probably honest in his opinion, as he had not seen his herd for some time.

Anyway, they decided to have a lawsuit, and father went to Charleston and hired Lincoln, who was then riding circuit, as his lawyer. Lincoln told him to let the colt and then to let its mother a certain distance on the one side of the colt and the mare from the other herd an equal distance on the other side of the colt. When called, Lincoln said the colt will go to its mother. This was done. When called, the colt played around a bit and made straight for its rightful mother. The evidence was used in court, and the colt was awarded to my father.

"The first time I saw Lincoln was on Sept. 18, 1855, the day of the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Charleston. We went in our spring wagon with the delegation from Farmington. When we reached the old Kickapoo bridge, we met Lincoln, who came down with the Mattoon delegation. He was riding in a covered buggy, which was in itself an unusual sight at that time. We all stopped,

Lincoln's buggy right next to our wagon, and Lincoln stepped out on the step of the buggy, so close to me I could have touched him, and said, referring to the wagon load of girls:

"Gentlemen, I thank you for this basket of beautiful flowers."

I remember him well. We went on to Charleston. Lincoln stopped in front of a house there, and a little old lady wearing a black cap stepped out, threw her arms around him and said, "Oh, Abe, I always knew you would get to be president!" This was Sarah Bush Lincoln, his step-mother.

"The next time I saw Lincoln he came to my father's house in February, 1861, before he was inaugurated, and asked my father to go with him to his father's grave. They went over to the old cemetery where Lincoln stood by his father's grave and wept, saying the country was approaching a critical time and that he never expected to get back here again and he never did."

Mrs. Baker has written considerable verse. The following she sent to a

friend with some flowers she gathered from Thomas Lincoln's grave:

"These precious flowers will claim a place

Among your treasures rare,  
For on Abe Lincoln's father's grave,  
God has tucked them with care.

He sent the pleasant April showers,  
The sunshine and the dew.  
That I might pluck these little buds,  
And send today to you."

## Death of Mrs. Susan D. Baker

(Lerna Eagle, December 28, 1927)

Janelville, Ill., Dec. 27.—Mrs. Susan D. Baker passed away Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James Dryden, in Janelville, with whom she had made her home for several years. She had been in failing health for more than a year and seriously ill since last Thursday, when she suffered a stroke of paralysis, from which she never gained consciousness.

The funeral took place from Shiloh

church at 11 o'clock. Rev. J. M. Mason officiating. Burial was in Shiloh cemetery.

Mrs. Baker was 76 years old. She was born within less than a mile of the home in which she died, being a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Rodgers of Pleasant Grove township. She is survived by five children, Mrs. James Dryden of Janelville, William Baker of Dodge City, Kan., Dr. J. G. Baker of Mattoon, Lewis Baker of Charleston and Robert Baker of Greenup. Mr. Baker died in January, 1918.

Mrs. Baker was a member of the Presbyterian church, and was the one into whose charge the upkeep of the graves of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln was personally given by Abraham Lincoln on the occasion of his last visit to Janelville. She was active in establishing and maintaining the Shiloh Memorial Association at Janelville.

Mrs. Baker was devoted to this

cause and labored for the improvement and maintenance of the cemetery in which the bodies of the father and step-mother of President Lincoln rest. On the occasion of the marking of the Thomas Lincoln Trail and the dedication of the new Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln monument, Mrs. Baker was given a prominent part in her own composition in honor of the Lincoln memories. Again at the state highway department's meeting at Toledo last summer, Mrs. Baker appeared as a proponent for a route for the new highway to pass near Shiloh cemetery reciting her ode.



DENNIS F. HANKS

The following named persons made the trip, known as "The Lincoln Trail," from Spencer county, Indiana to Decatur, Illinois in the year 1830:

Abraham Lincoln, then 21 years old, piloted a wagon in company with John Hall. This was verified when interviewed by his neighbor and life-long friend, Mrs. Sarah D. Baker.

Thomas Lincoln and wife, Sarah Bush Johnson, (Lincoln's father and step-mother.)

Dennis F. Hanks and wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sarah Bush Johnson.

Mrs. Nancy Hanks Shoaff, mother of T. B. Shoaff, publisher of The Shelby County Leader, Shelbyville, Ill.

John Hanks, son of Dennis, died in Day's Creek Valley, Oregon, at the age of 90 years.

Jane Dowling and Harriet Chapman, daughters of Dennis Hanks, lived and died in Charleston, Ill.

Dennis Hanks died at the home of his daughter, Nancy Hanks Shoaff, Paris, Illinois, age 93, killed by a runaway team. His remains rest in the Charleston, Ill., cemetery.

John J. Hall and Abraham Lincoln were cousins, once removed; Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln and Elizabeth Hanks Hall, Mr. Hall's grandmother, being sisters.

John Hall was born in Spencer county, Ind., April 12, 1839. Mr. Hall owned 325 acres of land and had given special attention to raising stock. His remains rest in Shiloh cemetery beside Thomas Lincoln and wife.

All the above named persons who were identified in the "Lincoln Trail," were relatives of Mrs. Nancy Hanks Shoaff, mother of T. B. Shoaff. Mrs. Shoaff died while visiting her daughter in Decatur, from injuries received by a fall. Her death occurred in August, 1903, age 79 years.

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## Letter of Many Years Ago

Years ago, several of Dennis Hanks' friends desired a biographical sketch of the close friend of Lincoln, and the letter he wrote, which at the present day is in the hands of J. D. Shoaff, Paris, Ill., follows:

"I, Dennis F. Hanks and Abraham Lincoln are cousins. Both were born in Hardin county, Ky., near Hodgenville, now Larcine county. I was born in 1799, 21, 1809. Our parents moved to Spencer county, Indiana, in the fall of 1817. There I met Lincoln's step-mother, who was a very kind woman. So was his father, Thomas Lincoln. Before him his mother's mother was a member of the Baptist church, a Christian lady in every respect.

This picture that will accompany this writing is a very good one of myself. I live in Paris, Illinois, at this date, 1877. Lincoln and I were always pretty well acquainted, which was in Macon county, Illinois. I am the only relative living who had intimate with him from birth."

"DENNIS F. HANKS."

Abraham Lincoln passed through a period of skepticism in early life, but by the time he entered upon the presidency his Christian devotion and fervor were unquestioned. He never joined church, but generally attended Presbyterian church in Washington.

## This Supplement

WAS EDITED BY

THOMAS B. SHOAFF

PUBLISHER OF

The Shelby County Leader

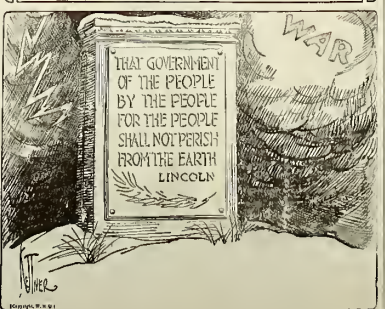
AND

ADOLF SUMMERLIN

## CHICAGO HONORS LINCOLN.

Chicago has expressed its admiration and love for Lincoln by erecting two magnificent monuments to his memory—one, the famous St. Gaudens statue in Lincoln park, which is visited by thousands of persons annually and on which the Prince of Wales, the Crown Prince of Sweden, David Lloyd George, Marshall Foch, the Queen of Roumania and other distinguished visitors have laid wreaths—the other, the new Lincoln monument in Grant park, one of the most conspicuous localities in the city.

## Stands the Test of Time



## ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

A young man ran for the legislature of Illinois and was badly swamped. He next entered business, failed, and spent 17 years of his life paying up the debts of a worthless partner.

He was in love with a beautiful young woman to whom he became engaged—then she died.

Entering politics again, he ran for Congress and was badly defeated. He then tried to get an appointment to the United States land office, but failed.

He became a candidate for the U. S. Senate and was badly defeated. Then he became a candidate for the vice presidency, and was once more defeated.

One failure after another—had failures—great setbacks. Then he became one of the greatest men in America—in the history of mankind.

His name was Abraham Lincoln.



## NATIONAL LINCOLN MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

The Thomas Lincoln Trail starts in Mt. Vernon, where Abraham Lincoln lived in a large, log cabin at Charleston, September 18, 1858, the occasion being the joint debate between Lincoln and Douglas. It will pass by Buck Grove, where Thomas Lincoln, in 1831, built his first log cabin in Pleasant Grove township; will pass through the Village of Lerna, where one-half a mile south are the foundation rocks on which he built his second log cabin in 1834; will pass by Shiloh cemetery, where Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln are buried; will pass within one-half mile of Farmington, where Lincoln ate his last meal in February, 1861, with his stepmother while on his way to Washington to be inaugurated president. The unperturbed dwelling is still being occupied as a residence, and eight miles north is the city of Charleston. Continuing in a easterly direction for two miles, the trail will pass by the site of the old Lincoln cabin, where the father of the President resided until he passed away January 9, 1851. The trail continuing on east will cross the Embarras river and connect with Route 129, just east of Dixon.

**Historical Section.**  
The people of the United States point with great pride to their many parks, monuments and memorials not only for their attractiveness, but their educational features and by this route, the Thomas Lincoln trail, which would be a link in the Lincoln National Memorial highway, will visit upon thousands of tourists the humble graves where repose the remains of Thomas Lincoln and his wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln; they will also visit the simple cottage in Farmington, where the stepmother president lived, but never with her while on his way to the capital of our country nearly 57 years ago.

This is one of the great historical sections in Illinois, and as time goes on, either the state or patriotic societies will purchase the original homestead and erect thereon a replica of the old Lincoln cabin. A memorial of this character, since the original cabin has mysteriously disappeared, will appeal to the heart of every patriotic American as it will point out to the youth of the land that it matters not how humble the birthplace may be there is no link in reaching the south in political, economical and scientific attainments.

"The short and simple annals of the poor," proving no less in reaching the hearts in life.

**Old-Time Anecdotes.**  
Two cross-headed farmers now living in the vicinity, Mr. Geo. T. Hutch and Mr. Thomas Allison, were attending school in Farmington at the time of Lincoln's last visit to his relatives and shook hands with him and heard his kindly remarks as he greeted the school children just before he departed on his return to Charleston to take the train for the east. There is also living one old lady in this county, Mrs. Ann M. Jeffries, who heard the famous Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858. Many tourists will also visit the farm site where once stood the old Lincoln cabin, and it is said to be the only place of real estate Abraham Lincoln ever owned with the exception of the homestead at Springfield.

**Building For the Future.**  
The building of the Thomas Lincoln Trail is not for the benefit of the great State of Illinois alone, but for the United States, and not only for the United States but for the world. We are not building and planning for the present alone, but for the great future—for the benefit of generations unborn. There is now and always has been a prevailing desire in the hearts of peoples to erect monuments and build memorials in honor of those whom they delight to honor—it has ever been so from the dim twilight of ages that have passed.

Lincoln is the best loved character in all history—his life is an inspiration—he belongs to the common people of every land. The scores flocked to the life of the great emancipator who was ever ready to listen to the heartbeats of humanity are shrines, and multitudes devoutly wish to pay homage to his memory which will grow in greater intensity with the lapses of time.

The building of this highway will prove a great boon to humanity and while it will be popularly known as the Thomas Lincoln Trail, it will be only one link in the proposed Lincoln Memorial Highway extending from Hodgenville, Ky., to Beardstown, Ill. It is destined to become the most popular highway in the world.

Starting in at the lovely birthplace of Lincoln in the hills of Kentucky, we follow them across the Ohio into Spencer county, Indiana, where he



### Nancy Hanks Lincoln

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother, blessings on her memory."

These are the words with which Abraham Lincoln memorialized his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and today his nation generally accepts his judgment of her and is beginning to show an eagerness to know about and honor her. The world has decided that Abraham Lincoln is not only the greatest American yet produced, but one of the towering figures in the history of the human race, and he says that it is great because of the mother who produced him. Therefore it is of the utmost importance to our nation that we pay tribute to this remarkable mother of a great son.

It is difficult to find out what she was like for she lived in pioneer times when facts were meagerly recorded and records carelessly kept, but when a man or a woman with a heroic personality is born in a country, even if it is wilderness, the song and story of tradition pass down facts about them by word of mouth and keep them alive in the minds of their time. We know that Nancy Hanks was tall and strong and brilliant of mind, with an invincible courage and energy which made her one of Elizabeth town's best known citizens. She was an orphan, with no money, and she took care of herself from her childhood.

The second wife of Thomas Lincoln, the second mother of Abraham Lincoln, was Sarah Bush Johnson, whose grave has waited 66 years for the monument erected by the Lion's Club of Mattoon, and two years later the Lion's Club of Danville, played foot marker at the grave.

But a monument has already been erected for her in the memory of those who knew of her influence upon Abraham Lincoln. She encouraged his love of learning, though she had none of it herself. She nurtured him in the simple virtues which she knew and practiced. She came to the home where the children, Abraham and his sister, and where their cousin, Dennis F. Hanks lived, and she washed and mended and patched and darned and brought comfort to the home. She was a true mother to Abraham Lincoln, and when he began his duties as President of the United States, one of the few visits he made out of Springfield between his election and inauguration, was to the home where he visited her, and to Shiloh church graveyard where his father lay buried.

**RUGGED HONESTY, SIMPLE DIGNITY**  
If anyone had called at the door of the round log house over on "Goose Nest Prairie" 11 miles south of Charleston, Ill., and told Thomas and Sarah Lincoln that one day a monument would mark their graves, they would have been much bewildered. But

the monument is well deserved, as it commemorates the virtues that we honor in these two untitled Americans, those two modest servants of God. In honoring them we pay honor again to Abraham Lincoln, and to his first mother, Nancy Hanks. And we honor the rugged honesty, the simple dignity, the unpretentious joy, that characterized the home life of Thomas and Sarah Lincoln.

The inscriptions on this monument are of the simplest possible character. They bear only the names of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln and the years of their birth, and one simple sentence: "But this sentence is one of noble origin."

"Their Humble but Worthy Home Gave to the World Abraham Lincoln."

(Dr. Barton, authority on Lincoln, is of the belief that Thomas and Nancy Hanks, father and mother of Abraham Lincoln, were never illegitimate—Ed.)



Sarah Bush, Lincoln's Stepmother



The John Hall log cabin, "Goose Nest Prairie," Coles county, Ill., where Lincoln's stepmother lived and died.



The actual log cabin birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, at Hodgenville, Ky., is shown at the left. It has been somewhat repaired and reconstructed, of course, to put it in good shape. It now stands in Lincoln Memorial Park at Hodgenville—a crude log hut encased in a lovely classic marble structure with Doric columns. The exterior of the memorial hall is shown on the right.

passed his days of youth and young manhood, and where his mother, Nancy Hanks, lies buried, and of whom her son once proudly said, "God bless my mother; all that I am or ever hope to be I owe to her."

The Lincolns crossed the Wabash at Palestine and we follow them in their wanderings through Illinois to Decatur; the father in a year or so retraces his footsteps and finally becomes reconciled to a plot of ground near Farmington, while his son after years of hardships finds his haven of business activity in Springfield and in time becomes the chief executive of the greatest Republic on earth. In time all these hallowed places enlivened with memories of the Immortal Lincoln will be linked together with paved roads thereby becoming the most popular highway the world has ever known.



LINCOLN-THORNTON DEBATE in Shelbyville, 1856, on "Freedom of the Territories." (From Original Painting by Robert M. Root.)

## SHILOH LINCOLN MEMORIAL CLUB JANESVILLE, ILL.

The following are the present officers of the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial club:

Harry Jones ..... President  
Mrs. F. A. Whittear ..... Vice President  
R. B. Rodgers ..... Secy.-Treasurer  
Directors—H. B. Rodgers, George Grimes, R. H. Baker, W. F. Price, J. A. Grimes, R. H. Baker, Harry Dallas, W. F. Reed, Mrs. R. B. Rodgers and F. A. Whittear.  
Life Membership fee ..... \$14.00  
The Club was organized November 19, 1922, and received its charter from the state December 5th, 1922. The monument erected to the memory of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln was formally dedicated May 23, 1923.

**PREAMBLE**  
We, the patrons of the SHILOH LINCOLN MEMORIAL CLUB, and citizens of the United States, as a Chartered Association, in order to care for the Lincoln graves and the cemetery wherein the Lincoln graves are situated, do adopt the following Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order:

**MOTTO**  
"Care for the Graves of the Dead as You Would Have Others Care for You."

**CONSTITUTION**  
**Article 1—Name.**  
This Association shall be known as the SHILOH LINCOLN MEMORIAL CLUB.

**Article 2—Officers.**  
**Section 1.** The officers of this association shall be a President, a Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and ten (10) Directors.

**Sec. 2.** The Officers of this association shall be elected by ballot, a plurality of the votes cast being necessary to a choice.

**Sec. 3.** Election shall be held on January 15 of each year, the date of the death of the Father of the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln.

**Sec. 4.** Officers may be elected on the date of their election or by the Secretary-Treasurer any time thereafter.

**Sec. 5.** Any member shall be eligible to office upon filing all requirements.

**Sec. 6.** Every official vacancy shall be filled at a regular, adjourned or call meeting as soon as practicable after such vacancy is known.

**Sec. 7.** Each officer shall take charge of all books, papers and documents pertaining to his office and shall transmit on retiring from office.

**Sec. 8.** All officers shall be elected for five years.

**Article 3—Duties of Officers.**  
**Sec. 1.** The president shall preside at all meetings of the association, call all special meetings, supply all temporary vacancies in office and perform such other duties as may devolve upon him.

**Sec. 2.** The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President.

**Sec. 3.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive all money of the association and carry on the correspondence of the same. All moneys shall be paid out by Secretary-Treasurer on order made by President.

**Sec. 4.** It shall be the duty of the directors to defend or prosecute all claims of the association, to promote the general interest thereof, to control and manage the affairs and funds and to recommend by adoption such measures as they think best to secure the prosperity of the association.

**Article 4.**  
Any person on the approval of the board of directors may be eligible to membership and entitled to one vote in person or by certified proxy.

This Constitution and By Laws and Rules or Order hereto annexed may be altered or amended by two-thirds vote of the members present or their certified proxies at any regular meeting or adjourned session thereof.

**Article 5.**  
This Constitution and By Laws hereto annexed or such portion as may be adopted not conforming with the laws of the State or the United States shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

**BY-LAWS.**  
**Article 1—Meetings.**  
**Sec. 1.** This Association shall hold its regular annual meeting in Shiloh church building, near cemetery, on the 15th day of January of each year at one o'clock P. M. unless otherwise ordered.

**Sec. 2.** At regular or call meetings five members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

**Sec. 3.** For special or called meetings three notices shall be posted in public places specifying the time, date and object of the meeting.

**Rules of Order.**  
Roberts Rules or order shall be authority on all points of parliamentary practice.



# Chronology of the Life of Abraham Lincoln

Compiled by Bill Turner for the Washington National Republic

## Lincoln Moved to Illinois

In the spring of 1830, when Abraham Lincoln was 21 years of age, the Lincoln and Hanks families crossed from Spencer county, Ind., to Mason county, Illinois. After a short time, the families of Thomas Lincoln and Dennis Hanks moved to Coles county, Illinois. Their route from Indiana to Illinois is still in doubt. Mrs. Gus Chapman, of Charleston, deceased, the youngest person that made the trip, when interviewed by N. Thompson of the University of Illinois, could not give the route in detail; said she remembered crossing the Wabash river at Vincennes, Ind., thence up the river to Cumberland county, Illinois, where they stopped 3 days with the Rufleys living on a farm. She could not remember crossing the Okaw river. The country being sparsely settled, with winding roads leading through wilderness and swamps, nothing could she remember that enabled the interviewers to find out the exact route to Decatur. What has been written is mere guess work. Mrs. Chapman was the aunt of F. B. Shoof, who has in his possession the sworn interview of Mrs. Chapman.

"In 1856," Judge Henry C. Whitney writes, "Lincoln and I walked to the open space in front of the old court house in Decatur, and Lincoln said: 'Here on this spot, 26 years ago, I made my first bail in Illinois; here I stood, and there our wagon stood, with all that we owned in the world.'"

The first home of the Lincolns in Illinois was a rude log cabin, which Lincoln and John Hanks, a farmer at that time living four miles northwest of Decatur, built on the Sangamon river eight miles west of Decatur. During the civil war, John Hanks served as wagon-master in Col. U. S. Grant's twenty-first Ill. Regiment. Later, President Lincoln appointed him to the office of Indian Agent.

Little did the homey-handed young Lincoln dream in 1830 that 30 years later a state convention held at Decatur would vote to set on foot a movement that would carry him to the White House. And little did the town folk of Decatur dream that this ungainly young rustic, in common case and unimpeachable jeans, gauding his "four yoke of gaunt oxen," would one day become an illustrious President of the United States. The first public appearance of the future President of the United States in Illinois was at the National Convention two weeks later at Chicago to vote for "Lincoln for President" and defeating Salomon P. Chase and William H. Seward, who were candidates for the nomination. Later, President Lincoln appointed Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, and Seward, Secretary of State.

The nomination of Lincoln added a colorful paragraph to the school history of our land by injecting the famous "rail splitter" episode into the campaign.

Our father, James Shoaff, at this time, was the editor and publisher of the Decatur Magnet, and through his influence, the son Tom, was present with him at the convention.

## Ford's Theater Where Lincoln Fell to Be a Shrine

recently in Coagres by Mr. Rathbone. These bills provide for Lincoln Memorial highways, one of them running from Beardstown to Petersburg thru Cass and Menard counties, a distance of about 40 miles, and the other from Mattson to Jacksonville, thru Coles and Cumberland counties, a distance of approximately ten miles. The bills provide that these roads should be of hard surface material of the latest type and should conform in construction to the state highways, with which they are to form connecting links. Congressman Rathbone has in mind a plan, which he hopes eventually to have worked out, of completing a chain of highways, which would pass thru those portions of Illinois where Lincoln and his parents lived and which are fitted with memories of the great Rail-splitter-President.

## JOHN WILKES BOOTH

Another Lincoln shrine is to rise in Washington, Old Ford's theater, where on the night of April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth fired the shot that killed Abraham Lincoln, is to be restored by the government at a cost of \$100,000 and made a Lincoln and war museum and national headquarters for the Grand Army of the Republic.

Congressman Henry Rathbone's bill provides:

"That the structure shall (1) house documents, books and relics illustrating Lincoln's public and private life; (2) shall be a repository for distinguished relics of the Civil war; (3) and shall be dedicated forever as a national Lincoln shrine and national headquarters for the Grand Army of the Republic and other veterans' organization.

The work of restoration will be carried on by the federal government's director of buildings and grounds, Col. Thyges S. Grant, grandson of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, who was to have gone to the theatre with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln on the night of April 14, and whom also Booth had hoped to slay. Another coincidence is that the bill creating the new memorial was introduced by the son of the Maj. Rathbone who with his affianced, was slain with the Lincolns.

Great historic events which took place in Illinois are also to be commemorated through bills introduced

## THE TEST OF CHARACTER

We reproduce in part, the following tribute to Abraham Lincoln by the late Col. Robert G. Ingersoll:

"Nothing discloses real character like the use of power. It is easy for the weak to be gentle. Most people can bear adversity. But if you wish to know what a man really is, give him power. This is the supreme test. It is the story of Lincoln that, having absolute power, he never abused it, except on the side of mercy.

"Wealth could not purchase, power could not awe, this divine, this loving man.

"He knew no law except the fear of doing wrong. Hating slavery, pitying the master-seeking to conquer, not persons, but prejudices—he was the embodiment of the self-denial, the courage, the hope and the nobility of a Nation.

"He spoke not to inflame, not to upbraid, but to convince.

"He raised his hands, not to strike, but in benediction.

"He listened for pardon.

"He loved to see the pearls of joy on the cheeks of a wife whose husband had been rescued from death.

"Lincoln was the grandest figure of the fiercest civil war. He is the gentlest memory of our world."

He was loving, he was kind, generous, gentle, these were some of the attributes welded up in the great heart of Abraham Lincoln.

1809—Feb. 12, Abraham Lincoln born. May 1, Kentucky of Illinois organized. May 4, James Madison inaugurated President.

1810—Feb. 12, first birthday; still living in log cabin where born. June 1, population of United States 7,239,822, of which 1,491,303 are slaves.

1811—Feb. 12, second birthday; still living where born.

1812—Feb. 12, third birthday. Still living where born. June 18, Congress declared war against England. Nov. 1, Daniel Webster, aged thirty, enters public life.

1813—Feb. 12, Lincoln's fourth birthday. Moved during this year to Knob Creek, fifteen miles away, where he saw a soldier of the War of 1812, the Red soldier he had eyes on. April 23, Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's great rival, born at Brandon, Vt.

1814—Feb. 12, Lincoln begins first schooling. Dec. 9, birth of Stanton, Lincoln's great Secretary of War.

1815—Jan. 8, Jackson wins Battle of New Orleans. Feb. 12, Lincoln's sixth birthday. In this year he was almost drowned in Knob Creek.

1816—Feb. 12, Lincoln's seventh birthday. During this year the family moved to Centerville, Ind. They crossed the Ohio on a raft.

1817—Feb. 12, Lincoln begins using axe in forest.

August 2, first steamship arrives at St. Louis.

1818—Feb. 12, ninth birthday. Living in log cabin in Indiana which he helped to build. Oct. 5, death of his mother, aged thirty-five.

1819—Feb. 12, tenth birthday. Living with father and sister Sarah in Indiana wilderness. May 26, first steamship crosses Atlantic. December 2, Lincoln's father married Mrs. Sarah Bush Johnson.

1820—Feb. 12, eleventh birthday. Walks four miles to school daily. June 1, first steamship line between New York and New Orleans.

1821—Feb. 12, twelfth birthday. Step-mother deeply interested in him, and arouses his eagerness for learning.

1822—Feb. 12, first cotton mill erected in Massachusetts. Feb. 12, Lincoln's thirteenth birthday. Works on a farm. Does digging on wooden shovels and smooth bark. April 27, U. S. Grant born.

1823—Feb. 12, fourteenth birthday. Attends Andrew Crawford's school and makes first essay on cruelty to animals. June 1, first steam power printing press in New York. Dec. 2, Monroe Doctrine pronounced.

1824—Feb. 12, fifteenth birthday. Eagerly borrows all the books for miles around. Aug. 10, Robert Owen of Scotland, establishes a community settlement in Indiana.

1825—Feb. 12, sixteenth birthday. Works as wood chopper, and wins six dollars per month. Oct. 26, Erie Canal completed.

1826—Feb. 12, seventeenth birthday. Gets hands on first law book. July 4, fiftieth anniversary of American Independence.

1827—Feb. 12, eighteenth birthday. His sister Sarah died in July of this year.

1828—Feb. 12, nineteenth birthday. Now six feet four in height. Makes first

trip down Mississippi this year at eight dollars per month.

1829—Feb. 12, twentieth birthday. Works as wool chopper, and wins notice as book-bonded clerk. June 30, Robert L. Lee graduates from West Point.

1830—Feb. 12, twenty-first birthday. Family preparing to leave Indiana for Illinois.

1831—Feb. 12, twenty-second birthday. Helps build new home in Illinois. Works on flat boat, and clerks in store of New Salem.

1832—Feb. 12, twenty-third birthday. During this year Lincoln serves in Black Hawk war, and reads Blackstone.

1833—Feb. 12, Lincoln's twenty-fourth birthday. He is burdened with debt. Learns surveying. New 7, appointed postmaster of New Salem, Ill.

1834—Feb. 12, twenty-fifth birthday. In November was elected to the legislature. Meets Stephen A. Douglas.

1835—Feb. 12, twenty-sixth birthday. During the year favors women's suffrage and takes against slavery.

1836—Feb. 12, twenty-seventh birthday. Aard begins practicing law in Springfield, Ill. November, re-elected to legislature.

1837—Feb. 12, twenty-eighth birthday. Refuses as postmaster of New Salem this year. Protests against pro-slavery action of legislature.

1838—Feb. 12, twenty-ninth birthday. This year forms law partnership with John Stuart, of Springfield. November, re-elected to legislature.

1839—Feb. 12, thirtieth birthday. This year argues against slavery in legislature. Sept. 1, U. S. Grant enters West Point.

1840—Feb. 12, thirty-first birthday. Re-elected to legislature this year.

1841—Feb. 12, thirty-second birthday. Awakens interest in temperance.

1842—Feb. 12, thirty-third birthday. Feb. 22, favors total abstinence in address before Washington Temperance society of Springfield. Nov. 4, Marcus Jay Todd of Lexington, Ky.

1843—Feb. 12, thirty-fourth birthday. June 30, U. S. Grant is graduated from West Point. Aug. 1, Robert Todd Lincoln born.

1844—Feb. 12, thirty-fifth birthday.

1845—Feb. 12, thirty-sixth birthday.

1846—Feb. 12, thirty-seventh birthday. Mar. 10, Edward Baker Lincoln born, but died in infancy. November, elected to Congress.

1847—Feb. 12, thirty-eighth birthday. Dec. Lincoln and Andrew Johnson use in House of Representatives, and Stephen A. Douglas and Jefferson Davis in Senate.

1848—Feb. 12, thirty-ninth birthday. During year serves in Massachusetts against Free Soil party. Introduces bill abolition of slavery in District of Columbia. Meets Wm. H. Seward.

1849—Feb. 12, fortieth birthday. This year studies and practices Law. President declines to appoint him Commissioner of General Land Office. Resumes law practice at Springfield.

1850—Feb. 12, forty-first birthday. Declines offer of partnership in Chicago law firm. Dec. 31, William Wallace Lincoln born.

1851—Feb. 12, forty-second birthday. February, Lincoln's father dies at age of seventy-three.

1852—Feb. 12, forty-third birthday. June 29, death of Henry Clay, aged seventy-five. Oct. 24, death of Daniel Webster, aged seventy.

1853—Feb. 12, forty-fourth birthday. April 4, Thomas Lincoln born.

1854—Feb. 12, forty-fifth birthday. October, Lincoln challenges Douglas to joint debate.

1855—Feb. 12, forty-sixth birthday. During this year the anti-slavery becomes generally known as the Republican party.

1856—Feb. 12, forty-seventh birthday. May 24, delivers an address at organization of Republican party, Bloomington, Ill.

1857—Feb. 12, forty-eighth birthday. March 4, Buchanan inaugurated President.

1858—Feb. 12, forty-ninth birthday. June 16, makes opening speech as candidate for Senate. Aug. 27, first Lincoln-Douglas debate, Ottawa, Ill. Aug. 27, second Lincoln-Douglas debate, Freeport, Ill. Sept. 15, third debate, Jonesboro, Ill. Sept. 18, fourth debate, Charleston, Ill. Oct. 7, fifth debate, Cairo, Ill. Oct. 13, sixth Lincoln-Douglas debate, Quincy, Ill. Oct. 15, Lincoln-Douglas debate, Alton, Ill.

1859—Feb. 12, fiftieth birthday. Oct. 16, John Brown makes Harper's Ferry raid.

1860—Feb. 12, fifty-first birthday. Feb. 27, delivers famous Cooper Union speech. March 18, nominated for President. Dec. 18, Senators and Representatives of eight Southern states issue addresses to their constituents urging secession. Dec. 20, South Carolina secedes.

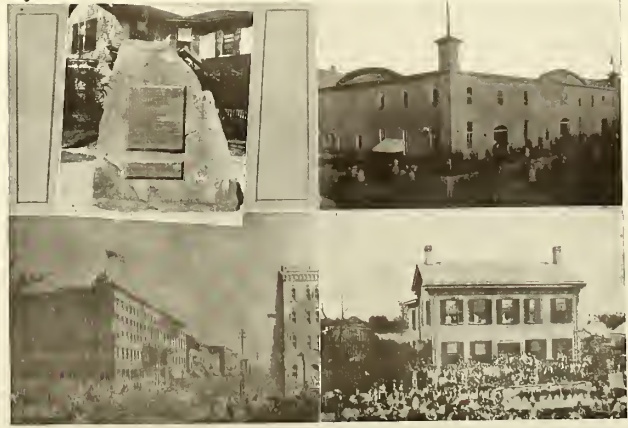
1861—Jan. 9, first shot of Civil war fired. Feb. 4, confederate congress organized. Feb. 12, fifty-second birthday. Feb. 18, Jefferson Davis inaugurated president of the confederate states of America. March 4, Lincoln inaugurated President. April 15, Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers. July 21, Battle of Bull Run. July 22, Congress votes \$500,000,000 to prosecute war.

1862—Feb. 12, fifty-third birthday. Feb. 20, Lincoln's son William Wallace Lincoln, dies in White House. July 2, calls for 300,000 volunteers for three years. Aug. 4, calls for 300,000 militia for nine months. Sept. 22, Emancipation proclamation issued.

1863—Jan. 1, all slaves declared free. Feb. 12, fifty-fourth birthday. Oct. 17, Lincoln calls for 300,000 volunteers. Nov. 19, officers leave Gettysburg.

1864—Feb. 12, fifty-fifth birthday. March 9, Grant made Commander-in-chief. July 18, calls for 500,000 men. Nov. 8, Lincoln re-elected. Dec. 19, calls for 300,000 volunteers.

1865—Feb. 1, thirteenth amendment providing for prohibition of slavery adopted by Congress. Feb. 12, Lincoln's fifty-sixth birthday. April 4, killed at Richmond. April 9, Lee surrenders to Grant. April 11, Lincoln delivers his last speech from window of White House. April 14, Lincoln killed in Ford's theatre by John Wilkes Booth. April 15, Lincoln dies. April 19, Lincoln laid to rest at his old home, Springfield, Illinois.



Some historic landmarks in the life of Lincoln. Upper left: Monument in Freeport, Ill., marking the scene of the Lincoln-Douglas debate; upper right; the "Wagwam," Chicago, where Lincoln was nominated for the presidency; lower left; the Tremont House, Chicago, where Lincoln issued his challenge to Douglas for a joint debate; lower right; an impromptu reception on the lawn at Lincoln's home in Springfield, following his election as President of the United States.



# "ABE" LINCOLN'S COMRADE

Talk With Dennis Hanks, the Quasin of America's President. Early Life and Characteristics of the Lad. A fervid Chief Executive of The Nation.

BY ROBERT MCINTYRE

Few know that the boyhood partner of Lincoln still lives, at the age of 61, in an Illinois town where his name is known to the great literator, was his backwoods teacher and guide, and knows more of "Honest Abe" than any man alive or dead. His reminiscences of the boy Lincoln never published to his knowledge, will be worth much to the future generations.

I found him hale and erect, ready to recount for the benefit of a younger generation, the incidents which marked the youth of the martyred President. His name is Dennis F. Hanks, and he is cousin to Lincoln. Uncle Dennis, as he is called, is a typical Kentuckian, born in Hardin county, Ky., 1799. His face is sun-browned and shows with furrows of time; a resolute mouth with firm grip of the jaw; broad forehead above a pair of unwearied eyes. The eyes seem out of place, in the weathered face, but they glow and flash like two diamond sparks, set in ridges of dull gold. The face is a serious one, but the play of light in the eyes, unquenchable by time, betrays the youth of soul. A sidelong glance at the profile shows a face strikingly Lincoln-like, prominent cheek bones, temples, nose and chin; but best of all the full lips, which are in the eyes that flashed in the White House during the dark days of the Civil war. To our query he replied cheerily:

"Certainly, certainly, Sir. I'll talk to you about Abe. I kin talk, too, 'bout 'as I am the only living man that knows all about him."

"How old was Mr. Lincoln when you first met him?"

"About 24 years, hardly that; I recollect I ran all the way, over two miles, to see Nancy Hanks' baby boy. Twice common then for connection to gether in then days to see new babies. Her name was Nancy. Hanks before she married Thomas Lincoln. I held the wee one a minute. I was 10 years old, and it tickled me to hold the pulpy, red, little Lincoln."

"When did you go to Indiana?"

"When Abe was about 8, Mr. Lincoln moved first, and built a camp of brush in Spencer county. We came out a year later, and he then had a cabin up and he was all settled down. On this spot Abe grew to manhood."

"How far apart were your cabins?"

"About fifteen rods. Abe killed a turkey the day we got there, and couldn't get thin telling about it. The name was pronounced Lincolns by the folks then. We was all uneducated. After a spell we learned better."

"In the 'Life of Lincoln,' published after his nomination, it is stated that you taught him to read. Is that correct?"

"Yes, Sir. I did. I taught him to spell, read and cipher. He knew his letters pretty well; but no more. His mother taught him the letters. If ever there was a boy who learned to read, it was Abe. He was a true Christian of the Baptist church; but she died soon after we arrived, and left him without a teacher. His father couldn't read a word."

"Is it possible he had no schooling?"

"Only about one-quarter; scarcely that. I then set to help him; but I didn't know much, but I did the best I could."

"What books did he read first?"

"Webster's spellers. When I got him through that, I only had a copy of Indiana statutes. Then he got hold of a book. I can't recollect the name, but you kin if I tell you something, et was in it. I told a yarn about a feller, a nigger or nuthin', that sailed a flatboat up to a rock, and the rock was magnetized and drewed the nigger to his boat, and he was there, or drowned, or nuthin', I forget now."

"That is the story of Sinbad, in the 'Arabian Nights.'"

"That's it; that's the book. Abe would lay on the floor with a chair under his head and hunch over them Arabian Nights by the hour. I told him it was likely him from end to end, but he learned to read right well in it."

"Did he say any other books?"

"Yes, I borrowed for him the 'Life of Washington' and the 'Speeches of Henry Clay.' They had a powerful influence on him. He told me afterwards in the White House, he wanted to see the Washington monument, to show that; but the other book did the most amazing work. He was a democrat, like his father and all of us, when he began to read. When he closed it was a while, heart and soul, and he went step by step till he became leader of the republicans."

root and a little coppers in it. It was black; but the coppers would catch the paper soon after awhile. I made my first pen out of a turkey barbed feather; there's good for pens. We had no geese then, though. After he learned to write he was scrawling his name everywhere; sometimes he would write it in the white and down on the creek bank, and leave it till the fresh would blot it out."

"Ah, Dennis, that name is written out, not in sand; high on the border of the Hanks' proud tomb, above the names of all save one. Next to the name of the immortal Washington blazes the signature of the blameless ruler and matchless man, Abraham Lincoln. The plain man is a kind of a kind of a thing that is worn on earth. Yes, that's so, and rightly, too. Not for his greatness; he wasn't the greatest man that ever lived, but he was the honestest. I reckon he had a lot to say, but I could see he didn't know how, and he never learned."

"Did you have any idea of his future greatness?"

"No; it was a new country, and he was a raw boy; rather a bright one, I'd say, but the big world was for ahead of him. We were slow gait folks, but he had it in him, though we never suspected it."

"Did he take his books eagerly?"

"No, we had to hire him at first. But when he got to hating it at first, he got to hating it, and he didn't know how, and he never learned."

"What church did Abe attend?"

"The Baptist. I'll tell you a circumstance about him. He would come home from church and put a box in the middle of the cabin door and repeat the sermon from text to doxology. I've heard him do it often."

"Was he a religious man?"

"Well, he wasn't in early life a religious man. He was a moral man, strictly—never went to frolics, never drank liquor, never used tobacco, never swore. But in after life he became more religious; but the little puzzled him, especially the miracle. He often asked me in the timber or 'sittin' around the fireplace, to explain scripture. He never joined any church or secret order."

"How did the lad fare for food and clothing?"

"Plenty, such as game, some—dodger, bacon and game, some—wild turkeys. I've often seen him take a walk to the field and get some of it when playing. We had very little wheat flour. The nearest mill was 15 miles; a boss mill it was, with a slug plough a sweep around; and Abe used to say his bound could sit and eat the flour all day as fast as it made it, and then be ready for his supper. For clothing he had jeans; he was grown before he wore all-wool pants."

"Did you more with him to Illinois?"

"Yes, I thought it a little improvement near him, six miles from Decatur. Here the famous rails were split and were carried along in the campaign. They were called his rails; but no body can tell about that. I split some of 'em, and we had a rail trolly and folks came and helped up split. He was a master-hand making rails; he heard him say in a speech one time about these rails—"If I didn't make these, I have made many just as good. Then the crowd yelled."

"Were you his crony and companion?"

"Yes, I was the only boy in the place, all them years, and we was always together."

"Did you ever visit him in Washington?"

"Certainly; there were some folks arrested in Charleston, and I, for the folks sake, went on during the war to get them free, for it was hot. I got there and found the White House surrounded with soldiers. I got up to the door to go in, and a reporter (nigger) came and stopped me. He said, 'Who do you want to see?' I said, 'Mr. Lincoln.' He said, 'You can't see him; it ain't the time of day yet.' I said, 'I'll show you if I can't. I haven't come here from Illinois for nothing.' He grinned and showed me the door to his office. Outside was a heap of fellows waitin' to get to see the President. I opened the door kinder soft and at the other end of a big room sat Abe at an old desk, about six feet high. 'Holler!' yelled a pretty President, and 'He looked up and said, 'Well, Dennis, is he here?' and made a run and just asked me. When I could get able to talk I said, 'I don't want to see him.' He said, 'most of 'em do. Dennis' and smiled kinder. I told my errand and he said to come up next morning and he would fix it. We talked an hour as friendly as ever about long times, then he told me to go

down to the house and see Mary—that's his wife. After he did now, poor soul. I knowed they was too high-falootin' down to Mary's for me, so I went to a tavern and put up. Next morning I went up, and Abe had an armload of indictments, and he said, 'I got these over to Stanton and he'll fix it.' I said, 'Abe, I don't know where the phlegmated place is.' So he called a reporter standin' by and said, 'Take these to Mr. Stanton.' Pretty soon Mr. Stanton, in a hobnob call, came in. He didn't want to let 'em go; but Abe was kind an' made him s'en 'em. When Stanton went out, I said, 'Abe, it was as big as you are. I would take Stanton over my knee and spank him.' He laughed and said, 'It is not easy to keep my cabinet all in good humor.' I left an' came home and never saw him again. The next spring he was killed."

"What did you hear of his death?"

"The day after he was shot, I couldn't believe it. I went about sayin' surely it isn't so. I mind it all like it was yesterday. Twenty years did you say? It all comes back so plain today. A man came to my house and said, 'Dennis, Abe's dead—murdered last night in Washington.' A mist came into the bright eyes, a pitiful quiver about the mouth and Dennis stopped. I went back in memory to that April morning in the city of Philadelphia. We had taken seats in the early car, ride along town, men and boys going to work. The morning papers had come up from town as usual and the men unrolled them to read as the car started. The car fell on the black border and ominous columns—lines. Before we could speak a good Quaker at the head of the car broke out in horror. 'My God! What's this? Lincoln is assassinated.' The driver stopped the car, and came in to hear the awful tidings. There stood the car, and street, as the heavy news was read in the gray dawn of that ill-fated day. \* \* \* The mute newboy on the corner said never a word as he headed to apaches buyers the damp sheets from the press, only he brushed, with unwashed hand, from his dirty cheeks, the tears till the last paper was gone. He came up shouting on the pavement, with face to the earth, while one, in choking voice, read the telegrams; then with a look they parted in unworded woe, each cursing bitterly in his breast the "deep damnation of his taking off." Will operatives, clerks, workers, school children all come home, the faltering voice of the teacher telling wondering children to "go home, there will be no school today." The newboy looked up amazed to see husband and children coming home so soon. The father's face frightened her, and she cried: "What is wrong husband?" He could not speak the news, but the wife girl with the school books said: "Mamma, they've killed our President." Ere noon every home was crepe; twas as if there lay a dead son in every home. For hours a sad group hung around the bulletins, hoping against hope; then, when the last hope died, turned suddenly home-ward, saying: "When all was won, and all was done, then to strike him." The faces in the houses that to last night, the streets were rivers of lucky streamers; from door-knobs floated crepe, and even the unbelled carriages seemed to draw the black-crepe and white crepe. The day after the funeral, the body lying in state in Independence Hall. Then the crepe train, moving westward like an eclipse, the engine swathed in black, drawing only across the cornlands and valleys, through the fall spring weather, the body of America's son, to lay him with his folded hands above his heart of oak in the quiet tomb on the edge of his loved river, the prairie Sangamon.

Dennis and I were both unfit to go. I rose to go, saying: "You will soon go over to the majority; do you expect to meet him in the better world?"

"I am dubious about us knowin' each other in heaven, but if I know anyone, I'll know him. He is over there somewhere; I know that."

One more question: "Did he get his rare sense and sterling principles from one parent or both?"

"Both; his strong will from his father. I'll tell you an incident. His father used to cover a little, and one day his baby girl picked up a foul oath and was brabbin' the bitter mortar in her sweet mouth, when Nancy called 'Thomas!' and said: 'Listen, husband!' He stopped and said, 'What's the matter?' But Abe's kindness, humor, love of humanity, hatred of slavery, all came from her. I am free to say Abe was a mother's baby."

So I bade the old man goodbye, promising one more the prairie hand and the children of President Lincoln the Emancipation Proclamation.

## Grave of the Father of Abraham Lincoln

WRITTEN IN FET BY GEORGE B. BALCH

In a low, sweet vale, by a murmuring rill,  
The Pioneer's ashes are sleeping;  
Where the white marble slabs so lonely and still,  
In silence their vigils are keeping.

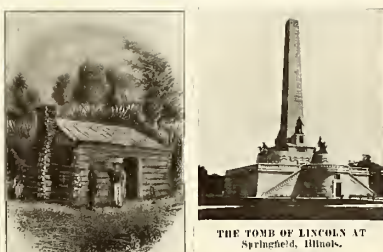
On their bed, lonely fates are words of fame,  
But none of these speak of his glory;  
When the pioneer died, his age and his name,  
No monument whispers the story.

No myrtle, nor ivy, nor hyacinth blows  
O'er the lonely grave where they laid him;  
No cedar, nor holly, nor almond tree grows  
Near the plebian's grave to shade him.

Bright evergreens wave over many a grave,  
O'er some bow the sad weeping willow;  
But no willow trees bow, nor evergreens wave,  
Where the pioneer sleeps on his pillow.

Some are inhumed with the honors of state,  
And laid beneath temples to mouldier;  
The grave of the father of Lincoln, the great,  
Is known by a hillock and boulder.

Let him take his lone sleep, and gently rest,  
With naught to disturb or wake him,  
When the angels shall come to gather the blest  
To Abraham's bosom, they'll take him.



THE TOMB OF LINCOLN AT Springfield, Illinois.

The above log cabin was built by Abraham Lincoln and John Hanks in 1830. It was the first home of Lincoln in Illinois, located on the Sangamon river eight miles west of Decatur. John and Dennis Hanks are standing in front of the cabin.



JAMES SHAW, publisher of the Decatur Magnet in 1865 when Lincoln was assassinated, removed the Lincoln log cabin that stood west of Decatur, to Rock-mountain, and in 1866 it was taken to Springfield by John and Dennis Hanks. The picture in the next column shows the two men standing in front of the cabin. Later it was removed to Chicago and exhibited, and then sold to an English Syriac, who lost it on route to some foreign city.

John Hanks, cousin to Dennis Hanks, who helped Abraham Lincoln build the log cabin, 6 miles west of Decatur, Ill., in the year 1830. "Uncle John" died on his farm near Decatur, July 1, 1889, age 87 years a month and 22 days. It was Mr. Hanks that urged the Lincoln to move to Macon county, having preceded them into Illinois.

Abraham Lincoln as an Attorney for the Illinois Central R. R.

Lincoln served as attorney for the Illinois Central in Woodford, McLean, DeWitt, Macon, Champaign and Vermilion counties over a period of several years prior to his nomination for the Presidency.



W. A. TROWER, 91.

A. W. Trower, formerly known as A. W. Trower, the Shelby County Landlord over 20 years. Mr. Trower is one of the early pioneers of Shelby county, having secured the offices of Sheriff, Postmaster, Mayor and Master at Chancery. Mr. Trower was born in Charlottesville, Va., in 1835, and is 91 years old. He is living with his daughter, Mrs. O. W. Walker, on North Broadway.

The first all-Pullman built car, the Plouwer, was used to carry the widow and the children of President Lincoln to Illinois in 1865.



# THE LINCOLN FARM

June 26, 1909

Mattoon, Ill., June 26.—The State of Illinois is to take over immediately the two 34 tracts of the original Lincoln farm, 13 miles southeast of Mattoon. This is indicated in a letter received from H. H. Cleaveland, director of public works and buildings.

It is not known just what progress is being made with the condemnation suit against John D. Martin of Sullivan for the remaining eighteen acres of land which the state desires to acquire for the Lincoln Farm Park at Farmington. Word from Mr. Cleaveland, however is that the attorney general's office has been asked to institute such suits.

The Mattoon and Charleston chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution started the agitation some time ago for the purchase and setting apart of the old Lincoln farm for state park purposes. A little over a year ago the Mattoon Association of Commerce and the Charleston Chamber of Commerce together purchased the west thirty-four acres of this tract when it was offered under an administrator's sale, with the sole idea of holding this land for the state if the administration could be persuaded to establish a park there.

Since then representatives of the two civic organizations have made several trips to Springfield to interview state officials in regard to it. Governor Emerson, who is a great admirer of Lincoln, was greatly interested and has been most cordial in his co-operation toward working this whole matter out. Finally when it became clear that the eighteen acres owned by Martin could not be gotten at what they all considered a reasonable price, the governor indicated his willingness for the state to go into condemnation proceedings to secure the land. In this the other officials concurred and the attorney general has been asked to start the suit.

## Working in Unison.

Representatives of the Association of Commerce here, working in unison with the Charleston organization, secured an option from Mr. and Mrs. William T. Phipps for the thirty-four acres lying just east of the thirty-four acres which these civic organizations had purchased, under which these two persons agreed to sell to the state. This disposed of the question of the sixty-eight acres, which will be turned over to the state. The eighteen acres owned by Martin will make the state holdings for the park eighty-six acres if the condemnation suit is successfully concluded.

While it is not expected that the state will do any work this year toward beautifying the land for park purposes, it is probable that plans will be made and work started to that end some time during next year. When it is remembered that Old Salem State Park was established with only fifty-five acres, and that it is now only seventy-four acres in extent, it will be realized that the eighty-six acres will provide quite an extensive park, for Coles county with great possibilities in its developing and beautifying. With the construction of the proposed Lincoln National Memorial Highway right past the park it will open it to visitors. The park, the Shiloh cemetery and many other associations of Lincoln with the Mattoon and Farmington vicinities will no doubt lead many people to these shrines in Coles county.

## Ready for Transfer

The letter definitely stating the matter would be closed promptly was received late Wednesday by Benjamin Weir of Charleston, who has been acting as trustee for the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and the Mattoon Association of Commerce in this Lincoln Farm matter. This letter follows:

"Judge G. E. Nelson, of the attorney general's office, and W. H. McLain, of the state auditor's office, will be in Charleston on Friday morning, June 28, prepared to close the purchase of the two pieces of real estate of thirty-four acres in Coles county.

"Will you meet these gentlemen at the court house at eight o'clock a. m., promptly on that date, having with you Mrs. Weir and Mr. and Mrs. William T. Phipps, prepared to execute the necessary deeds of transfer."

## Old Lincoln Cabin.

6-22-09

Charleston, Ill., June 22.—According to an article in the Harrodsburg, Ky., Herald, called to the Courier's attention by J. D. White, the little log cabin in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, parents of Abraham Lincoln were married on June 12, 1806, is now owned by the state of Kentucky. The deed to the property was, within the last ten days, presented by the Harrodsburg Historical Society to the Kentucky State Park Commission.

This cabin originally stood near Beech Fork in Washington county, about thirty miles from Harrodsburg Historical Society for preservation and was removed to Harrodsburg and re-located on about a half acre tract of ground given to the society by Miss Irene Moore. The presentation to the state of this Lincoln marriage cabin and the ground on which it stood in Harrodsburg becomes a part of the Pioneer Memorial State Park in which stood Old Fort Harrod, log stockade, and first permanent settlement of Kentucky. This is being maintained as a shrine to the pioneers.

Kentucky and Indiana have both furthered the erection and maintenance of memorials to the Lincolns, and they are expected to join heartily in the providing of the latest proposed memorial—the Lincoln National Highway from Hodgenville, Ky. to Beardstown, Illinois.

# Lincoln History Revealed in Letter

The following is the conclusion of a letter written by Dr. W. H. Doak on Feb. 1, 1923, to Rev. W. D. Ewing, a nephew, of Cambridge, Ohio. It appeared in the Martinsville Planet on July 25, 1929.

(Concluded from last week)

Martinsville, Ill., Feb. 1, 1923.

The Lincoln Log Cabin Association bought the cabin in 1891 and shipped it to Chicago. However, before shipping it they sent here Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, a literary lady and newspaper correspondent for the purpose of gathering up all the items of interest possible about Thomas and Abraham Lincoln. She combed this neighborhood most thoroughly and published a book with the title: "The Story of Abraham Lincoln from Log Cabin to White House." Abraham Lincoln for more than half his life time, 1831 to 1861, made frequent visits here and formed a large acquaintance.

## Lincoln Laconics

When at work Thomas Lincoln wore buckskin suspenders and when wet they would get so stiff they would stand alone, and one of his young neighbors coming in one day said to him, "Grandpap, you haven't greased your galluses lately." This remark seemed to slightly nettle Mrs. Lincoln, and she told the young man that Thomas had a pair of suspenders for Sunday that she had made out of linen that she had raised and spun her self. Just think how our folks get their clothes—never one of them was so shiftless as to wear store shirts or coats either. We get our clothes from nature."

John Hall heard Abraham Lincoln say, "O how hard it is to die and not be able to leave the world any better for one's little life in it." Others have quoted this so often without giving him the credit. Again he heard him say: "My children are my happiness, and I feel that God is good to me for having conferred upon me the privilege of bringing into the world innocent children." Before going further I will tell you who John Hall was, for he is dead now. Soon after Abraham Lincoln's mother died in Indiana, Thomas Lincoln married Sarah Bush Johnson of Kentucky, a widow having

three children, two girls and a boy. After these girls grew up, Dennis Hanks married one, and the father of John Hall married the other; thus Abraham Lincoln's step-mother was John Hall's grandmother. Although no blood relation they were close friends. It was at John Hall's that Mrs. Gridley wrote the first part of her book.

I suppose John Hall told Mrs. Gridley the exact facts about the story of an Indian killing Thomas Lincoln's father and of the narrow escape of little Thomas himself. When living in Kentucky Abraham Lincoln's grandfather took two of his sons, Mordecai and little Thomas six years old with him to the clearing where an Indian slipped up in a thicket and then ran for the boy hoping to take him prisoner, but Mordecai got to the boy first and ran with him to the house and got his rifle and shot at the Indian, seriously wounding him, but he got away.

Here is another. Mrs. Lincoln told her neighbors that they moved so often that it reminded her of the Children of Israel trying to find the Promised Land.

## Abe Lincoln's Melancholia

Mr. Hall said that Abraham Lincoln would sometimes go out in the woods by himself and stay a long time. Once he followed him to see what he was doing and saw him a long distance away leaning against a tree with his head bowed as though in deep meditation. Sometimes he was sad, as though the burden of the sorrows of the world was resting upon him, and would do but little talking; at other times he was cheerful. Every time he came home he would give his father money, and sometimes to his step-mother. He often walked from Charleston that he might have more to give them.

Thomas Lincoln always called his son, "Abie." While he was a silent, quiet man there were at times flashes of wit and flashes of humor like glimpses of sunshine in a shady place as in the three

following instances told to me by Rev. R. H. Osborne who got them from his wife. Mr. Furry, a neighbor, was going along the road when he noticed him grubbing brush out of the fence corners, and said to him, "Grandpap, I thought your farm was for sale." "So it is, but I hain't going to let my farm know it." And again, it seems that Thomas had not consulted his wife about the wisdom of selling their farm, and when she heard about it she brought him up on the green, asking if it was true. "Yes," he replied, "I know of a farm for sale cheap on Indian Creek having bottom land and running water and I am anxious to try my luck over there." But his wife said to him, "I can see a good rea-

son for all our previous moves but I can see no reason why we should leave this farm. We have good health, good neighbors, a good well of water, and I like to live here and I won't consent to leave." Well, Sarah, I will give it up, it will be a pleasure to me to suffer for you."

## Thos. Lincoln's Evasion

Here is another. One day when alone with her husband Mrs. Lincoln said, "Thomas, we have lived together along time and you have never yet told me whom you like best, your first wife or me." Thomas replied, "Oh, now, Sarah, that reminds me of old John Hardin down in Kentucky who had a fine looking pair of horses, and a neighbor coming in one day and looking at them said, "John, which hoss do you like best?" John said, "I can't tell, one of them kicks and the other bites and I don't know which is wust." It is plain to see where Abraham Lincoln got his talent for wit and apt illustrations.

## Reviews Life of Lincoln

Here I will end our little journey to the old home of the father of the great, but my letter would be incomplete without a few short lines concerning the life of Abraham Lincoln while living in Indiana and New Salem. At the time his family came from Kentucky he was nearly eight years old and could read and write—bringing with him a combined speller and reader, and Pike's arithmetic, both of which he mastered in his new home. Aside from a few months of school life the solemn solitude was his teacher, growing up in the University of the Woods on a curriculum of hard work, plain living and high thinking. About this time his yearning search for light and knowledge was distressing and there was placed in his hands, of Asiatic literature the family Bible; of Greek and medieval Aesop's Fables; of English Pilgrim's Progress and Weem's Life of Washington. Will you say that Providence did not send him these books, the cream of the literature of that day? Those four books were his world, and from them he constructed the philosophy of his life, which guided him to the end of his days as does a mariners compass the course of a ship. And this philosophy



ways do right, as God shows me the right." Some years later he put it this way: "I will do whatever appears to be God's will." And still later in life he said, "Without reliance on God I will fail, but with it I cannot fail." My dear nephew, I am sure you will detect at each round of the ladder reveals a higher conception of God. Here in the formative period of Abraham Lincoln's life God had him in his training school, paying the price of success by hard labor in woods and field, and at the same time he kept pouring over those wonderful books, to which later was added the Declaration of Independence which was his compendium of political wisdom. No boy ever devoured a meal when hungry with more relish than did Abraham Lincoln those books, and right here he laid the foundation of his future usefulness and greatness.

After living here about two years his mother died of milk sickness, or some similar disease—four or five others in the neighborhood dying of the same disease at the same time. Thomas Lincoln made the coffin for his wife, and for all the others. It was at this time the Lincoln family suffered their greatest privation. Their larder was already low, but now at the risk of their lives they dared not use either milk or butter and the wolf came right to their door. Abraham Lincoln in this crisis encouraged his father who had become despondent, telling him that they could live on corn bread with water, besides they could get a little meat. He was like John the Baptist in the wilderness living even on a worse diet than locusts and wild honey. Even at this early age he possessed a quality of soul that rose above the things that fret most men's nerves, and could almost laugh at circumstances; and through the storms of turbulent life he generally was able to keep himself as calm and unruffled as a summer evening.

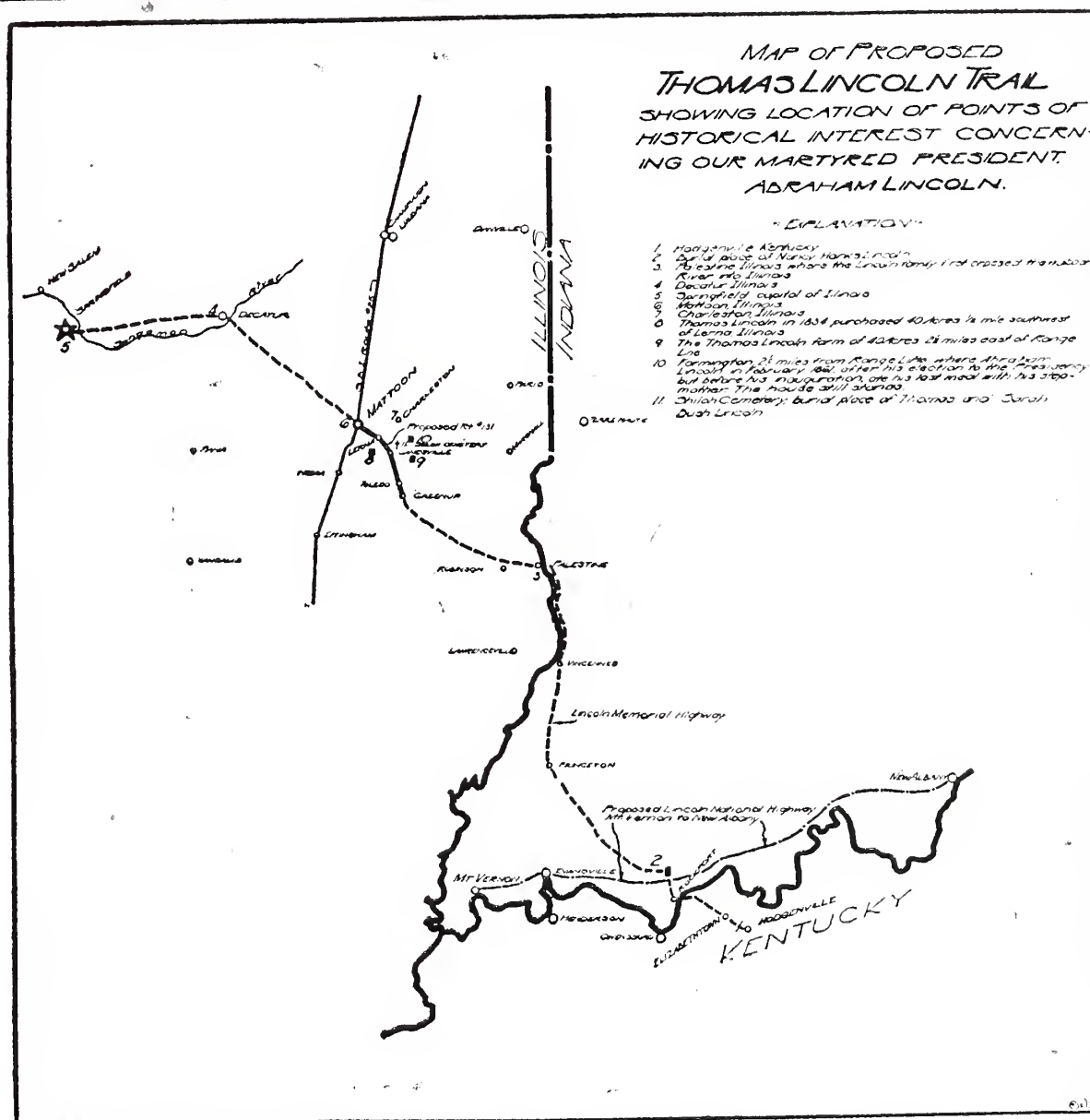
### Thomas Lincoln Moves to Illinois

Thomas Lincoln continued to live here in penury until the spring of 1830 when the family moved to Illinois locating on the Sangamon west of where Decatur now stands. Although he was of age, Abe stayed here one year helping his father on the farm. Then he left home going to New Salem, still on the Sangamon 15 miles northwest of Springfield where he lived seven years. He hired to a Mr. Offut who first sent him to New Orleans with a flat boat load of bacon. Here he visited the slave auction and heard the cries and lamentations at the parting of brothers and sisters, and parents and children, making such a deep impression on his sensitive soul that it never left him. When he returned he clerked in the Offut store for a time, was postmaster, was contemplating becoming a blacksmith but in emptying a box of rubbish he found an old copy of Blackstone the reading of which turned him to be a lawyer. He went as a captain to the Black Hawk war, engaged in surveying for a time, elected three times to the legislature from here and once from Springfield, the first time being defeated by Peter Cartwright, the Methodist pioneer preacher, because the election came off ten days after his return from the war, giving him no time to electioneer. In 1838 he moved to Springfield. He was elected to congress, met Douglas in debate in 1858 which gave him a national reputation, and treated him so courteously that he won his friendship and confidence. Douglas said that Lincoln was the most honest man he ever met, and after his election to the presidency Douglas espoused his cause and spoke with the voice of a million.

While living in New Salem and Springfield, Abraham Lincoln became a herald of truth both by speech and life. He did more, perhaps, than any other man of his time to mould correct public opinion. He taught that the Beatitudes can be applied to business and the Sermon on the Mount to politics; that the parable of the Good Samaritan can be lived up to; and if living today he would teach that the golden rule can be applied by the laborer to his employer and by the employer to the employed. God is in and behind every move of a good man, and he used the last inch of Lincoln's life to make a better world.

I notice my letter is already too long, but can't close without one more

thought. That God rules in the affairs of men is as certain as any fact in science, and that God's Providence in training Abraham Lincoln for his great work is as easily traced as a problem in arithmetic. Please write soon and tell me the difference between God's call of Moses to his work and of Lincoln's call to his.



The above map is the first suggestion of a Lincoln National Memorial Highway and was drawn by O. W. Starbuck and blue prints made and filed with the department of Public Works and Buildings by A. Sumerlin in February, 1927.

## THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

The thought of building a National Lincoln Memorial Highway first occurred to the editor of The Eagle when he was preparing his argument for the building of Route 131 from Toledo through Lerna to Route 25. In that address delivered at a hearing in Toledo on July 18, 1927, he said:

"In time, gentlemen, all these hallowed places entwined with memories of the Immortal Lincoln will be linked together with paved roads thereby becoming the most popular

highway the world has ever known, "And we sincerely hope, gentlemen, that on the conclusion of your deliberations you will save the hamlets of Lerna, Janesville and Bradbury from obliteration and aid in creating a highway that will be trod alike by sages, historians and the most humble plebeians through out the eons of time"

At this time the Lincoln organizations were in three groups—Lincoln Memorial Association of Oakford, the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial

Club, Janesville and a Lincoln Association representing Southern Indiana and Northern Kentucky. On the request of the Decatur Review copies of the literature which had been prepared from time to time on the request of the Shiloh organization was forwarded to Mr. E. O. McCann, Decatur, Ill.

In its issue of February 10, 1928, there appeared in the Decatur Review a complete map of the tentative highway extending from Hodgenville, Ky., to Beardstown, Ill. On

the strength of the information given in connection with the publication of the map a meeting was called to be held in Springfield for the purpose of organization.

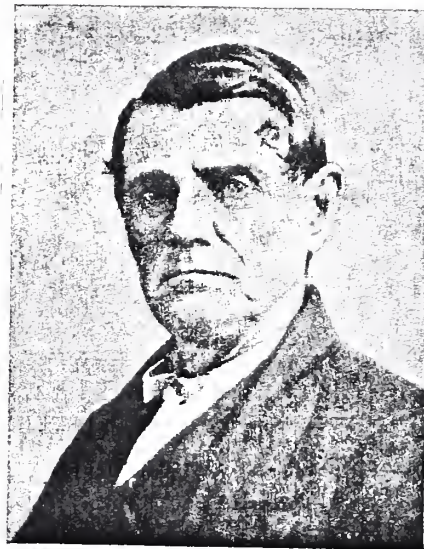
On that day the name, Lincoln National Memorial Highway Association, was selected, and the following directors chosen: A. T. Lucas, Chandlerville; J. M. Weaver, Oakford; J. M. Graham, Springfield; Dr. T. J. Knudson, Salisbury; H. E. Beekman, Old Salem; Le Drew Shaffer, Beardstown; Benj. Weir, Charleston; P. M. Schulhoff, Mattoon; A. Sumnerlin, Lerna. The directors then proceeded to elect the following officers; J. M. Weaver, president; A. Sumnerlin, vice-president; E. O. McManis, secretary-treasurer; A. T. Lucas, historian. The following have since been added to the list of directors: G. H. Gandy, Mt. Auburn; C. S. Clayton, Martinsville; Dr. C. M. Harris, Casey and Bruce Evans, West York.

On Monday, July 22, a meeting of the directors was held in Decatur for the purpose of hearing the report of the Routing Committee. After being read and after a few minor changes it was unanimously adopted as soon as the changes have been made it will be presented to Gov. Emmerson for his approval. Should he meet with his sanction it will then go to Hon. H. H. Cleaveland, director of public works and buildings, who will order out his surveyors for marking the route and estimating cost. All has been done that can be done up to the present time so far as Illinois is concerned. Indiana is organizing for the work and it is thought that Kentucky will soon become active in so great and laudable an enterprise.

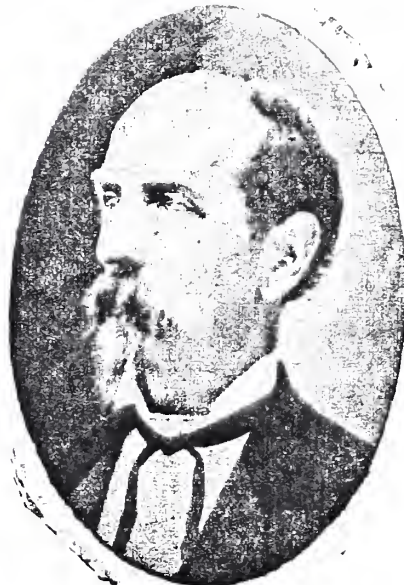
The Eagle feels deeply thankful to Thos. B. Shoaff, editor of the Shelby County Leader, a grandson of Dennis Hanks, for many of the cuts pertaining to Lincoln interests which appear in this issue. Mr. Shoaff is one of the old-time printers and believes in extending from time to time fraternal courtesies.

He has contributed in no little sense to the organization of the Lincoln National Memorial Highway. In February 1928 he issued a Lincoln anniversary edition of the Shelby County Leader and it being one of the ablest and finest editions we had ever seen we asked him to furnish The Eagle with 2,000 copies. This he kindly consented to do and they have been circulated among Lincoln admirers throughout the United States and has proven a great factor in creating the public sentiment which at the present time prevails.

This triple section edition to The Eagle is published in honor of the most important event that has recently taken place and that was the signing of the report of the routing committee of the Lincoln National Memorial Highway Association by the executive committee on Monday, July 22, 1929.



DENNIS F. HANKS.



JAMES SHOAFF

married Nancy Hanks, daughter of Dennis Hanks in Charleston in 1843.

LERNA, COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AUGUST 2, 1929.

PART THREE



# LINCOLN'S LAST VISIT.

Lerna Coyle 8-2-29

Mrs. Caroline M. Newman, Charleston, Ill., daughter of the late Dr. N. S. Freeman. Farmington, was born October 6, 1852, and is enjoying splendid health considering her age. She was a resident of Farmington until 1873, the village at that time having a population of about 300.

Although only about ten years of age she distinctly remembers the occasion of the last visit of Abraham Lincoln to his step-mother, Sarah Bush Lincoln, in February, 1861, a few days previous to his departure for Washington to be inaugurated president of the United States.

Mrs. Newman states: He came to Farmington with Col. A. H. Chapman, and they went to the log cabin and brought his stepmother to the home of Mrs. Matilda Moore, a daughter of Mrs. Lincoln. During the absence of Mr. Lincoln Mrs. Moore hurriedly paid Mrs. N. S.



Freeman a visit and excitedly said, "Abe has come and I cannot give him his dinner as I have hardly a thing in the house to eat." Mrs. Freeman said, "You must," and gave her some beef, bread, butter and

other articles of food and aided her in carrying the supply to Mrs. Moore's home. As soon as the situation became known several others contributed to the relief of the embarrassing situation.

On their return with his step-mother, the meal was ready and I watched the ladies serve dinner; two girls waited on the table, Miss Dovie Purcell afterwards Mrs. John Wagner, and Miss Lib Miner, afterwards Mrs. Ralph Osborn.

When it became generally known that the president elect was in the village school was dismissed; many assembled to give him welcome; Oliver Harris being away the store was forcibly entered and drums and fifes were secured and while martial music was being played they picked up Mr. Lincoln and

carried him about the front yard at Mrs. Moore's residence.

I was deeply impressed with Mr. Lincoln's kindly treatment of the school children. Among those present on that notable occasion were: George T. Balch, Thomas Allison, Mrs. Emma Allison Miner, Mrs. Mary Ann Killough, all living. When he noticed that Emma Allison had her hand bandaged from an injury and feeling sorry for her picked her up and kissed her. Afterwards he took five-year old Laura Catlin on his lap and kissed her, at the same time making some kindly remark.

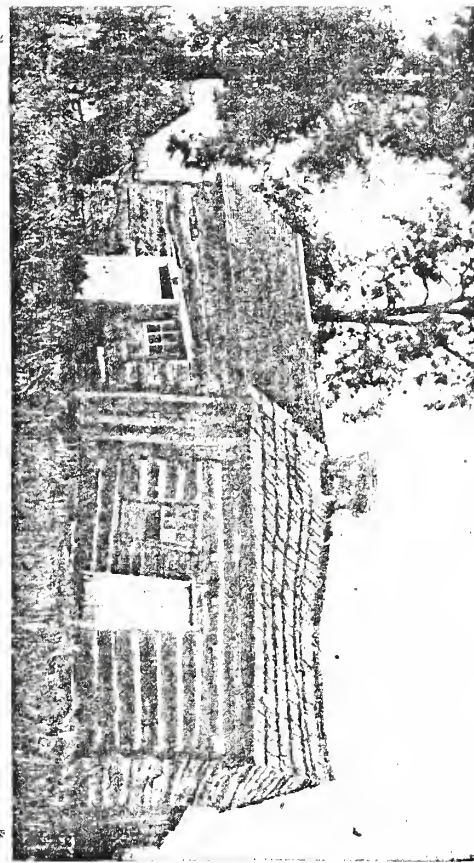
I was in the room when Mr. Lincoln was getting ready to take his farewell of his stepmother, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. On the bed was the fur cape which he had brought her as a present; Sarah Bush Lincoln was seated in a rocking chair near him and while he was talking to those who were in the room one of his hands clasped the rocking chair in which she was seated and the elbow of the other arm rested on the mantle piece. When in repose his face presented a very sad appearance, but when he smiled a radiance passed all over his countenance. When the time came for him to bid his stepmother good-bye he put his arm gently about her, and it was at this time that she uttered those prophetic words, "Abe, I'll never see you alive again. They will kill you."

This parting scene between Abraham Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln are as vivid in my memory as if the event had but taken place yesterday, and that was nearly 68 years ago.

The house where this scene took place is the one now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Annis in Farmington. In 1861 Mrs. Matilda Moore lived there, but afterwards she sold the place and moved to a rude one-room log cabin just south of our residence, where she took in washings. In this cabin she lived until her death. The foundation rocks are still on the ground and is at present owned by Albert Veach.

My father was the physician for Thomas Lincoln and family; and he and Abraham Lincoln were the closest personal friends.

The Sally Lincoln Chapter, D. A. R., Charleston, was named for Sarah Bush Lincoln.



The Thos. Lincoln Log Cabin.

Madison, Wis., Oct 5, 1929.

Pl. 1929  
statue dedication  
1929)

Mr. Geo Balch  
Berma, Ill.

Win IV:- I believe you heard the Lincoln-Douglas  
debate at Charleston. Wonder if you could write me a  
line or two about your recollections of it. Who was  
the judge Lincoln called to the stand (Fictin or Fithian)  
relative to his Mexican war vote.

Mr. Newman writes me you recall the debate  
very well. Hoping to hear from you, I am

Truly yours  
A. O. Barton  
1914 Madison St.  
Madison, Wis.



2. 10. 1941

My mother was of  
a different character  
from the ordinary little town  
people. She was a  
woman of high  
principles and a fine  
character. She was  
all that a mother should be.  
When I was a child  
I was very much  
attached to her.

She was a very  
kind and gentle  
woman. She was  
very much  
attached to her  
family. She was  
very much  
attached to her  
family. She was  
very much  
attached to her  
family.

Given by  
Leona  
200

## Thos. Lincoln's Second Log Cabin In Illinois

State of Oklahoma, Okfuskee County } ss

T. J. Diehl, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, on his oath states, that he is a resident of Okemah, Oklahoma, having resided in this town for the last ten years, that he is eight-four years of age, and prior to the time he moved to Okemah was a resident of Coles County Illinois, residing there from his birth until about ten years ago.

That in the year 1869 or 1870, the affiant, with his father George Diehl, bought a lease upon the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter and Southeast Quarter of Section Six Township Eleyen North Range Eight East.

Shortly thereafter, as my father and I were walking through the pasture looking for a missing animal, we came to a place about one hundred fifty yards from the northwest corner of the forty acres, about the same distance from the west line. My father stooped and looked down and said, "Here is where Abe Lincoln's father lived in an early day." The foundation logs of an old place were plainly visible. About fifty yards off, was a depression in the ground like as if there had been a well.

At different times I have heard old settlers speak of Lincoln having lived there.

T. J. DIEHL.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of May 1930.

{Seal} MARTIN L. FRERICHS,  
Notary Public

(In the foregoing affidavit made by T. J. Diehl the place referred to is the site of the first log cabin erected in Buck Grove by Thomas Lincoln in 1831, and now owned by C. W. Stephenson. The foundation rocks have never been disturbed. He resided here until 1834 when he purchased the 40-acre tract near Lerna, now owned by J. Will Walker.)

*See re. Log. 5-23-30*

# Lincoln History Revealed in Letter

The following is the conclusion of a letter written by Dr. W. H. Doak on Feb. 1, 1923, to Rev. W. D. Ewing, a nephew, of Cambridge, Ohio. It appeared in the Martinsville Planet on July 25, 1929.

(Concluded from last week)

Martinsville, Ill., Feb. 1, 1923.

The Lincoln Log Cabin Association bought the cabin in 1891 and shipped it to Chicago. However, before shipping it they sent here Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, a literary lady and newspaper correspondent for the purpose of gathering up all the items of interest possible about Thomas and Abraham Lincoln. She combed this neighborhood most thoroughly and published a book with the title: "The Story of Abraham Lincoln from Log Cabin to White House." Abraham Lincoln for more than half his life time, 1831 to 1861, made frequent visits here and formed a large acquaintance.

## Lincoln Laconics

When at work Thomas Lincoln wore buckskin suspenders and when wet they would get so stiff they would stand alone, and one of his young neighbors coming in one day said to him, "Grandpap, you haven't greased your galluses lately." This remark seemed to slightly nettle Mrs. Lincoln, and she told the young man that Thomas had a pair of suspenders for Sunday that she had made out of linen that she had raised and spun her self. Just think how our folks get their clothes—never one of them was so shiftless as to wear store shirts or coats either. We get our clothes from nature."

John Hall heard Abraham Lincoln say, "O how hard it is to die and not be able to leave the world any better for one's little life in it." Others have quoted this so often without giving him the credit. Again he heard him say: "My children are my happiness, and I feel that God is good to me for having conferred upon me the privilege of bringing into the world innocent children." Before going further I will tell you who John Hall was, for he is dead now. Soon after Abraham Lincoln's mother died in Indiana, Thomas Lincoln married Sarah Bush Johnson of Kentucky, a widow having

three children, two girls and a boy. After these girls grew up, Dennis Hanks married one, and the father of John Hall married the other; thus Abraham Lincoln's step-mother was John Hall's grandmother. Although no blood relation they were close friends. It was at John Hall's that Mrs. Gridley wrote the first part of her book.

I suppose John Hall told Mrs. Gridley the exact facts about the story of an Indian killing Thomas Lincoln's father and of the narrow escape of little Thomas himself. When living in Kentucky Abraham Lincoln's grandfather took two of his sons, Mordecai and little Thomas six years old with him to the clearing where an Indian slipped up in a thicket and then ran for the boy hoping to take him prisoner, but Mordecai got to the boy first and ran with him to the house and got his rifle and shot at the Indian, seriously wounding him, but he got away.

Here is another. Mrs. Lincoln told her neighbors that they moved so often that it reminded her of the Children of Israel trying to find the Promised Land.

## Abe Lincoln's Melancholia

Mr. Hall said that Abraham Lincoln would sometimes go out in the woods by himself and stay a long time. Once he followed him to see what he was doing and saw him a long distance away leaning against a tree with his head bowed as though in deep meditation. Sometimes he was sad, as though the burden of the sorrows of the world was resting upon him, and would do but little talking; at other times he was cheerful. Every time he came home he would give his father money, and sometimes to his step mother. He often walked from Charleston that he might have more to give them.

Thomas Lincoln always called his son, "Abie." While he was a silent, quiet man there were at times flashes of wit and flashes of humor like glimpses of

62-30  
sunshine in a shady place as in the three following instances told to me by Rev. R. H. Osborne who got them from his wife. Mr. Furry, a neighbor, was going along the road when he noticed him grubbing brush out of the fence corners, and said to him, "Grandpap, I thought your farm was for sale." "So it is, but I hain't going to let my farm know it." And again, it seems that Thomas had not consulted his wife about the wisdom of selling their farm, and when she heard about it she brought him up on the green, asking if it was true. "Yes," he replied, "I know of a farm for sale cheap on Indian Creek having bottom land and running water and I am anxious to try my luck over there." But his wife said to him, "I can see a good rea-

son for all our previous moves but I can see no reason why we should leave this farm. We have good health, good neighbors, a good well of water, and I like to live here and I won't consent to leave." Well, Sarah, I will give it up, it will be a pleasure to me to suffer for you."

## Thos. Lincoln's Evasion

Here is another. One day when alone with her husband Mrs. Lincoln said, "Thomas, we have lived together a long time and you have never yet told me whom you like best, your first wife or me." Thomas replied, "Oh, now, Sarah, that reminds me of old John Hardin down in Kentucky who had a fine looking pair of horses, and a neighbor coming in one day and looking at them said, "John, which boss do you like best?" John said, "I can't tell, one of them kicks and the other bites and I don't know which is wust." It is plain to see where Abraham Lincoln got his talent for wit and apt illustrations.

## Reviews Life of Lincoln

Here I will end our little journey to the old home of the father of the great, but my letter would be incomplete without a few short lines concerning the life of Abraham Lincoln while living in Indiana and New Salem. At the time his family came from Kentucky he was nearly eight years old and could read and write—bringing with him a combined speller and reader, and Pike's arithmetic, both of which he mastered in his new home. Aside from a few months of school life the solemn solitude was his teacher, growing up in the University of the Woods on a curriculum of hard work, plain living and high thinking. About this time his yearning search for light and knowledge was distressing and there was placed in his hands, of Asiatic literature the family Bible; of Greek and medieval Aesop's Fables; of English Pilgrim's Progress and Weem's Life of Washington. Will you say that Providence did not send him these books, the cream of the literature of that day? Those four books were his world, and from them he constructed the philosophy of his life, which guided him to the end of his



days as does a mariners compass the course of a ship. And this philosophy or motto he stated as follows: "I will always do right, as God shows me the right." Some years later he put it this way: "I will do whatever appears to be God's will." And still later in life he said, "Without reliance on God I will fail, but with It I cannot fail." My dear nephew, I am sure you will detect that each round of the ladder reveals a higher conception of God. Here in the formative period of Abraham Lincoln's life God had him in his training school, paying the price of success by hard labor in woods and field, and at the same time he kept pouring over those wonderful books, to which later was added the Declaration of Independence which was his compendium of political wisdom. No boy ever devoured a meal when hungry with more relish than did Abraham Lincoln those books, and right here he laid the foundation of his future usefulness and greatness.

After living here about two years his mother died of milk sickness, or some similar disease—four or five others in the neighborhood dying of the same disease at the same time. Thomas Lincoln made the coffin for his wife, and for all the others. It was at this time the Lincoln family suffered their greatest privation. Their larder was already low, but now at the risk of their lives they dared not use either milk or butter and the wolf came right to their door. Abraham Lincoln in this crisis encouraged his father who had become despondent, telling him that they could live on corn bread with water, besides they could get a little meat. He was like John the Baptist in the wilderness living even on a worse diet than locusts and wild honey. Even at this early age he possessed a quality of soul that rose above the things that fret most men's lives, and could almost laugh at circumstances; and through the storms of a turbulent life he generally was able to keep himself as calm and unruffled as a summer evening.

### Thos. Lincoln Moves to Illinois

Thomas Lincoln continued to live here in penury until the spring of 1830 when the family moved to Illinois locating on the Sangamon west of where Decatur now stands. Although he was of age, Abe stayed here one year helping his father on the farm. Then he left home going to New Salem, still on the Sangamon 15 miles northwest of Springfield where he lived seven years. He hired to a Mr. Offut who first sent him to New Orleans with a flat boat load of bacon. Here he visited the slave auction and heard the cries and lamentations at the parting of brothers and sisters, and parents and children, making such a deep impression on his sensitive soul that it never left him. When he returned he clerked in the Offut store for a time, was postmaster, was contemplating becoming a blacksmith but on emptying a box of rubbish he found an old copy of Blackstone the reading of which turned him to be a lawyer, went as a captain to the Black Hawk war, engaged in surveying for a time, elected three times to the legislature from here and once from Springfield, the first time being defeated by Peter Cartright, the Methodist pioneer preacher, because the election came off ten days after his return from the war, giving him no time to electioneer. In 1838 he moved to Springfield. He was elected to congress, met Douglas in debate in 1858 which gave him a national reputation, and treated him so courteously that he won his friendship and confidence. Douglas said that Lincoln

was the most honest man he ever met, and after his election to the presidency Douglas espoused his cause and spoke with the voice of a million.

While living in New Salem and Springfield, Abraham Lincoln became a herald of truth both by speech and life. He did more, perhaps, than any other man of his time to mould correct public opinion. He taught that the Beatitudes can be applied to business and the Sermon on the Mount to politics; that the parable of the Good Samaritan can be lived up to; and if living today he would teach that the golden rule can be applied by the laborer to his employer and by the employer to the employee. God is in and behind every move of a good man, and he used the last inch of Lincoln's life to make a better world.

I notice my letter is already too long, but can't close without one more

thought. That God rules in the affairs of men is as certain as any fact in science, and that God's Providence in training Abraham Lincoln for his great work is as easily traced as a problem in arithmetic. Please write soon and tell me the difference between God's call of Moses to his work and of Lincoln's call to his.

## Flag on Cabin Site

A few days ago J. Will Walker erected a flag pole on the site of the log cabin erected by Thomas Lincoln in 1834 and a day or so later the stars and stripes were placed on the flag pole as a marker to this historic spot.

Last week the following visited the site and the rocks which had supported the cabin were gathered up and placed around the base of the flag pole: D. G. Greer, Elijah Hayes, Rolla Highland, Wm. Anderson, Eugene Hardwick, Chester Thomas, Harold Whitacre, Ralph Beavers, Rev. C. Hearn and A. Sumerlin.

After the last rock had been properly placed brief addresses in honor of the event were made by Rev. Hearn and A. Sumerlin.

Rolla Highland in searching about the site unearthed several pieces of broken pottery and these were given to Rev. Hearn who decided to send them to the Springfield Historical Society. *June 16, 1930*

## Lincoln Shrine Mattoon

Mattoon, Ill., June 16.—Acting upon the suggestion of officials of the National Lincoln Memorial Highway Association and members of the local chapter of this organization, the Sawin-Jones Co., has placed in its display window a placard designating the site of its store as the Pennsylvania House where Abraham Lincoln spent the night previous to the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Charleston. Later this firm at the request of the same association, will place in a conspicuous place on the front of the building a permanent marker.

The Lincoln parade to the Lincoln-Douglas debate formed at Mr. Lincoln's headquarters and to Charleston over the south road to Charleston. The Democrats formed their parade at what is known as Lone

Elm, at Thirty-second street and Western avenue and went to Charleston by the north road.

Mr. Lincoln's memorable visit at the Pennsylvania House was on September 17, 1858.

*See also page 6-2-20*



## Remembers Lincoln.

June 2, 1906 6-27-30

Sunday the Eagle editor enjoyed a splendid dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. I. Whitacre, the menu consisting of chicken, rolls, chicken gravy, pickles, ice cream and cake and lemonade. The editor did ample justice to the delicious edibles.

Mrs. Harriett Whitacre was also a guest on this occasion and although she is well advanced in years she distinctly remembers incidents pertaining to the visit of Abraham Lincoln to Farmington in February, 1861, and says that the picture painted by her grandson, Harold Whitacre, is a life-like portrait of him as he appeared at that time in the village to take his last farewell of his step mother, Sarah Bush Lincoln. Mrs. Whitacre was attending school and on account of the visitation of the distinguished citizen school was dismissed by R. H. Osborne, the teacher and in honor of Mr. Lincoln the citizens formed a procession and with drum corps paraded up and down the streets, yelling for Honest Abe.

Farmington at that time was much of a village and was the capitol of Goose Nest Prairie. There were several stores and among them was a general store conducted by her father, John R. Phipps. In those days they did not have regular ministers; they were known as circuit riders, and during the visitation of one of these she joined the church.

## A LINCOLN RELIC.

Mattoon, Ill., June 25.—Mrs. W. E. Waltrip, who lives just west of the corporate limits of Mattoon in Western avenue, has a plate from which Abraham Lincoln ate at different times when he was a guest of her grandfather, the late William G. Waddill, at the latter's tavern, southwest of Mattoon near the Little Wabash church.

Mrs. Waltrip obtained possession of the plate through her mother the late Mrs. Hannah Parmelia Smith who received it from her mother, Mrs. Waddill. It is an iron etine china plate, with blue design. It bears the label, "John Alcock, Celeste, Cobridge."

Mrs. Waltrip has a newspaper clipping in which Mrs. Smith, her mother, is quoted as saying, "I saw Mr. Lincoln a great many times. My Father, William G. Waddill, kept a stage house on the state road near the Little Wabash church and I cooked for Lincoln many times while there. He always seemed in a deep study and never spoke very much. My father's name was recorded in Washington by President Lincoln. Lincoln was always dressed in black, a broadcloth frock coat, and we had no idea of his ever being president. There were no automobiles and not even trains in those days, but we had beautiful coaches to ride in, and Lincoln often road by in them. I have some dishes now from the old stage house a plate from which Lincoln ate at different times."

On her eighty-second birthday, Mrs. Smith, who then resided just south of the Linder school house, two and a quarter miles west of Mattoon, received 108 postal cards in a shower arranged by her friends. As the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Waddill, she helped cook the meals for the guests of the Waddill tavern.

Mrs. Waltrip says that she did not realize until recently the historic value of the Lincoln plate. She is now cherishing it as a priceless heirloom.

# Portrait of Lincoln Unveiled.

It being Flag Day another historical event took place Saturday afternoon. It was the informal unveiling of a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, as he appeared when inaugurated president of the United States, drawn by Harold Whitacre, a young teacher and artist residing in Lerna, Geo. T. Balch who attended school in Farmington at the time the president elect paid his last visit to Sarah Bush Lincoln, says that the portrait is a splendid picture of Mr. Lincoln's appearance at that time, and as he distinctly remembers him.



After the portrait had been placed on the easel, which had been erected, opposite the First National Bank, at the intersection of Main and Fourth streets, the meeting was called to order by R. G. Hall, beneath the spreading boughs of the maple at Kimery's, who in a few well chosen words explained the object of the gathering and concluded by calling on Mayor Foltz to preside as chairman. On assuming his position he called in turn on the following for short addresses: Elder F. M. Tate, Rev. Carl Hearn, George T. Balch and A. Sumerlin and the meeting was brought to a close by prayer by Elder F. M. Tate.

Mr. Balch's remarks were deeply

interesting from the fact that he related many incidents in the life of Lincoln that are not recorded in the histories, and he concluded by feelingly referring to President Lincoln as he appeared and conducted himself on his last visit to his step-mother in February, 1861. A few days after bidding Sarah Bush Lincoln farewell he was on his way to Washington to be inaugurated president of the the United States.

The dwelling in which the parting scene took place still stands in Farmington and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Annis.

When the proposition was presented to J. M. Haddock to have a portrait painted of Mr. Lincoln by Harold Whitacre he was so deeply impressed with the project that he volunteered to furnish the lumber and do all the work necessary. In a day or so the boards were highly finished and placed in a frame ready for the artist and a few days later appeared the life-like portrait of Abraham Lincoln which has received the plaudits and admiration of everyone who has viewed it.

1930

# LINCOLN'S CABIN HOME MISSING; DEEP MYSTERY

By Associated Press.

CHICAGO, Saturday, June 24.—Last pages of a book, telling all that may be told of the mysterious disappearance prior to the last Chicago World's Fair of the Abraham Lincoln log cabin, were written today by the sole survivor of the association formed in 1890 to preserve it as a memorial.

Forty years since then have served to kill all hope that the cabin Lincoln split rails for and helped build, and which was the home of his mother thirty years, would ever be found. Efforts now center on reconstruction of the cabin, by the measurements and detailed description made when it was taken apart in 1891 and brought to Chicago from its original site in Coles County.

Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, 87 years old, who supervised the removal, and has written her second book about the cabin, said John Hall, Lincoln's cousin, received \$10,000 for it.

In Chicago it was reassembled in the Exposition Building of the interstate fair, pending the opening of the Columbian Exposition. Finally, it was put in storage for safe keeping when the World's Fair

was postponed a year, and Mrs. Gridley went to Europe.

When she returned, she related, she was appalled to find the storage room empty. And from Mr. Gunther, the storage house proprietor, all she ever learned was:

"Perhaps you may find your cabin in the bottom of the sea!"

"Loss of that treasure entrusted to my care," Mrs. Gridley said, "preyed on my mind. I tried to convince myself the cabin had never been brought to Chicago; that I had been dreaming."

Later she said a man at the storage house told her he had helped move the cabin.

"All I have gained throughout the years is circumstantial evidence," she said. "All I could do to solve the mystery is ask 'Why was the cabin destroyed?' and 'Who wanted it destroyed?'"

Finally she said she had come to believe that the persons responsible, necessarily of powerful influence, were those ashamed of the humble origin of Abraham Lincoln, and eager to prevent the exhibition at the World's Fair of the cabin he helped to build for his mother.

# LINCOLN STORY

By Mrs. ELEANOR GRIDLEY

Sarah Bush Lincoln lived for many years in the Lincoln log cabin homestead. In this house her death occurred in 1869.

This cabin was built by Abraham Lincoln and his father, Thomas Lincoln, in the year 1831. It was located on Goose Nest Prairie, Coles County, Illinois. There it remained, inhabited, for fully sixty years. It was never removed to Springfield.

Upon the completion of the log cabin Abraham Lincoln left his father's home, "permanently," as he so stated. However, he visited his parents every year, and these home comings were always for the purpose of rendering aid and comfort.

After the death of his father, in 1851, his home-visits were more frequent than before and so continued until February, 1861, when Abraham Lincoln, president elect, came to the old log cabin to bid his kind old stepmother, to whom he was greatly attached, a fond "good bye," a tender, tearful, eternal farewell.

In May, 1891, the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association of Chicago, purchased from John T. Hall, grandson of Sarah Bush Johnson, the Lincoln log cabin home.

Having been elected secretary of the association, I visited the log cabin and so journeyed during the months of June and July. Hundreds of people neighbors, acquaintances and friends, near and far away, came to view the now famous log cabin. Among them were many who related incidents, concerning the Lincolns, and of intense human interest, I incorporated them in my Story of Abraham Lincoln, "The Journey from the Log Cabin to the White House.

In August the old log cabin was carefully razed. Every log, every other part of the house, every one of the bricks that composed the huge chimney, and every piece of mortar that filled the "ohinks" having been accurately labeled, was with the most painstaking care, shipped to Chicago.

Perfectly rebuilt within the North Annex of the old Exposition Building on the lake front and surrounded with the same old rail fence, it presented a vividly realistic and attractive exhibit, the most popular attraction at the Inter State Exposition.

Twice a day (every day) afternoon and evening, I stood on a platform before an open door, through which could be seen the primitive and homely Lincoln household furniture, giving short and interesting "talks". Men, women and children flocked to view the famous log cabin and to hear its wondrous story.

Someday I am going to reveal an unknown true story, "The Tragic of the Famous Log Cabin."



# Group Reorganizes to Restore Lincoln Cabin in Cole County

Completion of the reorganization of the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association, which in the '90s brought Lincoln's Illinois log cabin to Chicago for exhibition and now seeks to restore it on its Cole county site as part of a Lincoln shrine, was announced today by its officers.

The reorganized association has obtained incorporation papers, assembled a staff of workers and elected Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, 5844 Harper avenue, president. Mrs. Gridley visited the log cabin, which was near Mattoon, in 1891, sixty years after Abe and his father raised it on Illinois soil. She remained there for several weeks and supervised removal of its timbers to Chicago, where it was to have been rebuilt as part of the world's fair. These plans went awry, though the Lincoln log cabin was exhibited temporarily in the old Exposition building on the lake front and was visited by hundreds before it was dismantled because of the razing of the building.

## Sees Dream Near Realization.

From that time until today Mrs. Gridley has never ceased to plan for the restoration of the historic cabin on its original ground, and at last she feels that her dream is near realization.

"Now that the state of Illinois has acquired the Lincoln farm and an additional tract of land," said Mrs. Gridley, "the Lincoln state park, with the homestead log cabin rebuilt on the original site, will constitute another Lincoln shrine."

Times have changed since June 17, 1891, when Mrs. Gridley and her companions left the railroad at Mattoon and after some delay hired a vehicle

and a span of horses which took them to the rarely visited homestead.

## Highway to Pass Shrine.

"The Lincoln Memorial highway," said Mrs. Gridley, "from the log cabin where Lincoln was born at Hodginsville, Ky., and following the trail of the Lincolns, will pass by the Coles county shrine."

"A legion of tourists will visit the log cabin. Perhaps it will impress them as in 1891 it impressed the confederate veteran in our party. He removed his hat, pointed to the dilapidated cabin, and after a moment of profound silence said, 'In mute but wondrous eloquence it stands.'"

As a secondary objective the reorganized association contemplates the establishment of an Abraham Lincoln information center for the preservation and study of Lincoln relics. As a nucleus toward the proposed public collection Mrs. Gridley has in her own possession now the spinning wheel used by Nancy Hanks and the life mask of Abraham Lincoln. These, she has indicated, she will turn over to the information bureau when the time is ripe.

CHICAGO ILL. NEWS  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1931.

COVINGTON, KY. POST  
MAR. 9, 1931 M12

CHICAGO ILL TRIBUNE  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1931.

## LINCOLN'S CABIN SAVED

CHICAGO: Restoration of Abraham Lincoln's Illinois log cabin to its original site in Cole-co, as part of a Lincoln shrine, is planned by officers of the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association, which, in the '90s, brought the cabin to Chicago for exhibition purposes.

## THE LINCOLN CABIN.

Chicago, Jan. 12.—In 1891 the log cabin built by Abraham Lincoln and his father, in the year 1831, was taken down, brought to Chicago and rebuilt in the north annex of the old Exposition building on the lake front, where it was recognized as the most interesting and attractive exhibit of the Interstate exposition. I will greatly appreciate hearing from any one who saw the Lincoln log cabin at that time.

ELEANOR GRIDLEY,  
President, Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin  
association.

H - 9 - 100  
Story - Coler County, Col.

October 30, 1933

Mr. John Monroe  
1430 Arapalico  
Los Angeles, California

My dear Mr. Monroe:

Thank you for calling to our attention the availability of the picture of the log cabin which you have. We have several pictures of the cabin, one taken very early and I expect similar to the one you have, so we would not care to acquire another one.

Enclosed you will please find some bulletins which relate to the cabin which you mention but I do not feel there would be any opportunity of releasing any copyright portrait of the cabin because it is so well known.

I do not know of any way in which we could use it here in our Foundation.

Thanking you nevertheless for calling it to our attention, I am

Respectfully yours,

LAW:LH

Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation



1430 Grapahoe. Los Angeles California.

Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.  
Los Angeles. California.

OCT 26/33 RECEIVED  
LOS ANGELES  
BRANCH OFFICE

OCT 26 1933

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE

Gentlemen.

Am wondering if an original picture  
of a log cabins home - of Abraham Lincoln - that  
I have can be used some way to our mutual  
benefit - financially.

In the yr 1832 Thomas Lincoln - father  
of President Lincoln - moved from Indiana  
with his family to Coles County Illinois.

As was the custom those days the  
neighbors helped build them a log cabins home.

In 1893. My uncle Judge Craig Mattoon  
Ill. purchased this cabins for \$1,000 and sold it  
to the Chicago Worlds Fair Ass. for \$10,000.

I have a large original picture -  
taken of this cabins - newspaper clippings etc.

Possibly we may jointly get a copy right.  
for use in advertising insurance, and sale.  
to advantage for us both. Perf.

Picture now in Dallas Texas.

John Monroe.

# COLES COUNTY ALSO RICH IN LINCOLN LORE

## Homestead South of Charleston To Be Park

By LEE LYNCH

(Written for the United Press)

Charleston, Ill., May 18.—(UP)—Recent acquisition by the state of 86 acres of the old Lincoln homestead south of Charleston, in Coles county, to be used and dedicated as a state park, freshens memories of younger generations here who have heard their forefathers relate Lincoln stories and recall incidents to the minds of the remaining few who actually remember seeing Lincoln.

Coles county is rich in Lincoln lore.

Traveling by foot and on horseback, Abraham Lincoln came here for court and to see his parents. After he was elected president he returned to visit his stepmother, Sarah Bush Lincoln, and the grave of his father, Thomas Lincoln, who is buried in Shiloh cemetery, eight miles south of here.

### Register in Church

A register in the vestibule of the church contains the names of hundreds of visitors, representing every state in the Union, and many of whom made special trips to the historical spot.

Thomas Lincoln moved to the old homestead in 1837 and lived there until his death, which occurred on

January 17, 1851. The stepmother who is also buried in Shiloh cemetery, lived at the homestead until her death. Abraham Lincoln made many visits to this old home, always coming by way of Charleston.

The old Moore house, yet standing, is located about one-half mile north of the old homestead. It was in this house that Lincoln ate his last meal with his stepmother after he was elected president and before he went to Washington.

There was a family reunion of the Halls, the Hanks, and the Lincolns at that time in the Moore house, and it was in this house that Lincoln presented to his stepmother a shawl as a present.

Charleston, eight miles north of the Moore house, and where Lincoln had many relatives, was often visited. In 1831 he walked across country from St. Louis, Mo., to visit his father at Buck Grove, eight miles farther west.

### Lincoln-Douglas Debate

In the infield of the fairgrounds race track here is an appropriate monument, marking the spot where Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, on Sept. 18, 1858, held their fourth and probably most important of the seven joint debates.

One mile south of Lerna, still in Coles county, is the site of the second Thomas Lincoln home where he moved after leaving Buck Grove.

Lincoln had a good many cases in the Coles county courts.

A bill in his own handwriting is now in the circuit clerk's office in Charleston. Lincoln's most noted case in Charleston was a slave case in 1847 in which he defended property rights in Negro servitude. He lost the case.

The bedstead on which Lincoln slept his last night in Charleston, in February, 1861, in the home of Thomas Marshall, is still preserved in the home here of Mrs. Minta Marshall, Thomas' daughter-in-law. Marshall was a candidate for the state senate in 1858 at the personal request of Lincoln and was elected.



## Mrs. Gridley in Address on Lincoln

*Mattoon Journal 7-7-37*

Mrs. Eleanor Gridley of Chicago, noted Lincoln authority and author of "The Journey From the Log Cabin to the White House," told the story of her connection with the Lincoln Log Cabin Association and gave many interesting anecdotes of Lincoln, in a talk Friday to a home-coming audience at the fairgrounds.

Seated with Mrs. Gridley and other guests was Mrs. Mary Gridley-Bell of Lake Geneva, Wis., whose father was a close personal friend and law partner of Abraham Lincoln.

Mrs. Gridley had a number of interesting mementoes with her from her Lincoln collection.

"Just 80 years ago today I witnessed the birth of the Republican party at a large gathering in my home town of Jackson, Mich.," began Mrs. Gridley. "As a child of eight, I hung on to my father's hand as we hurried to the meeting. Many famous speakers were there, among them Horace Greeley. I am the only living person who was present at that meeting.

"Just six years later, as an officer in the girls' Republican organization, I worked for Lincoln's nomination as president, and I am glad to say that I helped elect him to that office."

"On June 18, 1891, I arrived in Mattoon with architects and photographers and a number of other attaches and proceeded to the old cabin on Goose Nest Prairie which Lincoln and his father erected in 1831," continued Mrs. Gridley. "We purchased the cabin, and arrangements were made for me and my secretary to remain in the cabin and write a booklet concerning Lincoln and this cabin. It was the purpose of the association to move this cabin to the shores of Lake Michigan and exhibit it at the Columbian Exposition.

## Lincoln Talk



Mrs. Eleanor Gridley of Chicago, president of the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association, who was present at the Lincoln Day program of the home-coming and gave an address Friday at the Lincoln exhibit at the fairgrounds.

"The cabin at this time was the property of John J. Hall. Originally the cabin was deeded by Abraham Lincoln and his wife to John D. Johnston for the consideration that Johnston assume the care and welfare of Sarah Bush Lincoln the remainder of her life. He was Abraham Lincoln's step-brother. This is the only known document which was signed by both Lincoln and his wife and until recently was in my possession. I still have a photostatic copy of this deed. Johnston failed to keep up the taxes and the tax title passed to John J. Hall.

"The cabin was taken down and moved to Chicago to be placed on exhibition, but when we arrived we could not secure a site on the concession ground. I made arrangements to have the cabin stored and visited it every few days. One day when I went to visit it I found that it had been stolen from its storage space.

"From that day to this I have worked unceasingly to raise a fund to place a replica of that cabin back on the original site on Goose Nest prairie, for it was the home of the person who is one of the greatest inspirations to American boyhood and girlhood of today—Abraham Lincoln."

The collection of Herbert W. Fay, custodian of the Lincoln tomb, was displayed along with Mrs. Gridley's collection and that of a number of local collectors. A number of the people who were present viewed the collection with interest.

May 24-1936

Dec

DECATUR SUNDAY HERALD AND REVIEW

## Tells Lincoln Family Pledge

**J. M. U. Professor to  
Speak at Thomas Lin-  
coln's Gravesite**

Prof. Don Baker of Millikin university, whose family has lived in the Shiloh vicinity 14 miles southeast of Mattoon or 100 years and has carried out a promise given personally to Abraham Lincoln to care for the graves of the Civil war President's parents, will speak at 2 p. m. today in the Shiloh church in observance of Memorial Sunday.

Thomas Lincoln, the President's father, and Sarah Bush Lincoln, his stepmother, are buried at the Shiloh church.

According to Prof. Baker, Lincoln asked Baker's grandfather when leaving for Washington to become President, to care for the graves of Lincoln's parents.

Prof. Baker's grandmother, Susan Baker, once attempted to influence the state legislature to appropriate a sum for a monument over the graves, he said, but was unsuccessful.

However, Mrs. Baker spoke several years ago at a Mattoon Lions club meeting attended by the club's state president. He became interested in the Lincoln burial place and later that organization raised a fund to purchase a memorial over the graves.

Later, Prof. Baker said, the Kiwanis club built footstones and an iron fence about the graves to prevent souvenir hunter from chipping off parts of the new memorial.

Prof. Baker's speech today is one of several being given in observance of Memorial Sunday.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
State Park Division

*Springfield, Illinois*

Mr. Louis A. Warren,  
2530 Maple Avenue,  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

On Thursday, August 27, 1936, at 3 o'clock P.M.  
The State of Illinois and The United States Department of  
Interior, National Park Service, will dedicate the Lincoln  
Log Cabin State Park, located eight miles south-west of  
Charleston.

Governor Henry Horner, Governor of The State of  
Illinois, will be the speaker of the day.

Mr. Robert Fechner, head of The National Park  
Service is also expected to be present.

You are cordially invited to attend this dedicatory  
service and we wish to personally urge that you be present.

*Theo. M. Kingsbury*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Theo. M. Kingsbury,  
Project Superintendent.



September 1, 1936

Mr. Theo. M. Kingsbury, Project Superintendent  
State Park Division  
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Mr. Kingsbury:

We are indeed grateful for your invitation to attend the dedication of the Coles County project but we observed in the newspapers that it was problematical as to just when the dedication would be held.

Will you kindly advise us whether or not any definite date is now established as it may be possible for me to attend the services.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director

5 . . . . .  
5

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Camp Shiloh  
Charleston, Ill.

Sept. 4, 1936.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director,  
Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. Warren :

We regret that any newspaper articles , stating  
that the date of the dedication of this park was problematical,  
prevented you attending the exercises which were held as  
scheduled on August, twenty seventh.

We enclose herewith a copy of the dedication  
program in which you may be interested.

Very truly yours,

Theo. M. Kingsbury  
Theo. M. Kingsbury  
Project Superintendent

September 9, 1936

Mr. Theo. M. Kingsbury  
Project Superintendent  
National Park Service  
Camp Shiloh,  
Charleston, Illinois

My dear Mr. Kingsburg:

Thank you very much for sending the program of dedication of the park at Charleston.

The notice I read about the possible postponement of the dedication was in the Chicago Tribune, it stating that it was not known whether Governor Horner would be available for that day so that it might have to be postponed.

I am sure by glancing through the program that you had a very interesting day.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director



# ADDRESS MADE BY GOV. HORNER AT DEDICATION

## Owe State Much for Making Park Possi- ble, he Says

"Lincoln is still with us, in spirit and in ideals, and many of us, irrespective of politics, of selfish interest, still try to follow the path he has laid out for us," Gov. Henry Horner told a crowd of over 8,000 persons that assembled at the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, 15 miles southeast of this city, Thursday afternoon for the park dedication.

### Owe Much to State for Park.

"The state is very glad to have this park," said the governor. "We owe a lot to the state for making possible this park, which marks the fact that Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln lived here. For years we came to this spot, bare of anything except a few rocks, because we wanted to be near the sacred spot where lived a fine pioneer father and mother. Now we have a permanent shrine."

Governor Horner headed an excellent speaking program that also included talks by Edward C. Craig of Chicago, general counsel of the Illinois Central; Patrick Barrett of Chicago, familiarly known as "Uncle Ezra;" Benjamin T. Thomas of Springfield, executive secretary of the Lincoln Historical Society, and George E. Baich of near Lerna, a contemporary of Lincoln, who when a school boy shook hands with Lincoln.

Rev. Horace Batchelor of Mattoon gave the invocation and Rev. E. E. Atherton of Charleston pronounced the benediction.

### Many Lincoln Students There.

"The speakers' stand was crowded with noted Lincoln students. Heading the group was Mrs. Eleanor Gridley of Chicago, well-known Lincoln historian. Others included James M. Weaver of Oakford and E. O. McCann of Decatur, president and secretary, respectively, of the Lincoln National Memorial Highway Association. Four men, all of whom remember seeing Lincoln during their boyhood—William Best, Thomas J. Allison, Charles Freeman and Mr. Baich—were among the honored guests.

Introduced also were Theodore M. Kingsbury, superintendent of the National Park Service; Charles P. Casey, acting director of the Department of Public Works and Buildings of Illinois, and Maj. Lester H. Barnhill of Decatur, regional commander of the CCC, all of whom had important parts in directing the construction of the shrine. All were cited for their work and co-operation by Benjamin Weir of Charleston, publisher of the Charleston Courier, who served as chairman of the meeting.

The crowd, which came from sections all over Illinois and parts of Indiana, assembled at the park early in the afternoon in order to have an opportunity to inspect the Lincoln cabin, an exact reproduction of that in which Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln lived, and also other buildings—the old-fashioned stable, the well and windlass, the root cellar, the shelter house, the custodian's residence, garage and

barn, etc. When the hour of the ceremonies came, the crowd surged around the speakers' stand, built at the southeast edge of the cabin.

### Spirit of Lincoln in Work.

"I am very grateful to Mr. Kingsbury, who headed the work in reconstruction of this cabin and to the CCC boys who erected this place in memory of the nation," said Governor Horner, in his dedicatory address. "You have to have a real heart to do a job of that kind, and Illinois boys helped to lift every board and to cement every crack. They must have had the real spirit of Lincoln in their hearts. Just as you who came here because you were imbued with the spirit of Lincoln—just another name for the Spirit of Illinois.

"You must feel in your bones the presence of the ghosts of the past and the hands of the pioneers on your shoulders. They seem to say to you, 'Go on, America, we made the sacrifices of the past for you to make for the next generation.' All around here are the fingerprints of the past—the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Charleston, the sacred spot at Shiloh, where Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln are buried . . . all a shrine in honor of blessed Abe Lincoln.

"Closeby is the old Moore house, more modern, where Abe Lincoln visited while his mind was crowded with thoughts of what he could do for the nation. He found time to

leave that great triumphal procession in 1861 to come see his step-mother. This pioneer woman, Sally Bush Lincoln, wife of Thomas Lincoln, step-mother of Abe Lincoln, had taken Abe as her own boy and taught him right is right and wrong is wrong, guiding him to the greatest triumph that any man can reach—the presidency.

"His step-mother, Sally Bush Lincoln, took him aside and said, 'I'm afraid, my boy, I will never see you again.' He went on, never to return to his mother nor to Coles county, nor to Illinois, but still he lives next to the mortal gods above who preceded him—the noblest man that ever lived.

### Love Tradition of Spot.

"We love the symbolism and the tradition of this spot," continued Governor Horner. "A nation or state without a tradition is a nation or state without a soul. No one can know Illinois without loving the people of the state. No one can know the nation without recognizing the pioneer spirit of overcoming obstacles—depression, wars, drouth, etc.

"When you are prone to become discouraged, come here and look at this cabin and think of the discouraging things that befell our great president. He, during all his life, had only a year of schooling, yet with the encouragement of his step-mother, he trained himself so that he wrote and spoke better than any statesman of his day. He was constantly on the course of preparation—that you know. Lincoln was scarcely known during his first 35 years in this country. Yet he patiently prepared for the task that awaited him, building a strong physical body to hold a great mind and a steady hand to guide a palpitating heart.

"You people have asked me to dedicate this park. You are the dedicators. It is not for me to dedicate, it is for you, standing out there, to dedicate this park.

"As Lincoln said in his great Gettysburg address, 'we cannot consecrate this ground, you who fought here living and dead have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract.'"

### Mr. Thomas Speaks.

Mr. Thomas, who preceded Governor Horner on the program, said the farm which has been made into the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park "is of peculiar interest and importance in the Lincoln story." "Not so much because of its direct associations with Abraham Lincoln, however," said Mr. Thomas, "for Lincoln visited it only rarely, but because of the fact that it was one of the few pieces of property Lincoln ever owned, and one to which he was determined to cling more tenaciously, perhaps, than any other, not excepting his home in Springfield. For this was the home of Lincoln's step-mother, Sarah

Bush Lincoln—a woman who had filled the place left vacant in his life by the early death of his own mother. In his mind, the retention of this farm meant security for her."

"Abraham Lincoln," said Mr. Thomas, "never relinquished ownership of the cabin and 40 acres of the tract, although he did have trouble with John D. Johnston, a step-brother of Thomas Lincoln, a lazy person who obtained easy money by persuading Sarah Bush Lincoln to sell part of the farm and then borrowed the money from her. Abraham Lincoln stopped that after she had relinquished 80 acres, and never surrendered this 40 acre tract. John J. Hall, purchaser of the west 80 acres, cultivated it as part of his farm, and on May 7, 1888, acquired legal title to it by reason of undisputed possession for more than 20 years.

#### Cabin's Fate Not Known.

"On May 8, 1891, Hall sold the old cabin, which still stood on the farm, and a part of the surrounding land to James W. Craig of Mattoon. On Jan. 12, 1892, Mr. Craig deeded it to the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association, which took the cabin to Chicago and re-erected it for exhibition at the World's Fair of 1893. Set up in close proximity to the fair, although not a part of it, the cabin was visited by thousands of people from all parts of the country. Subsequently it was dismantled, and while plans for its future disposition were under consideration, it suddenly disappeared. Its fate has never been determined."

Mr. Balch, who remembers being in school when Abraham Lincoln made his last visit to Coles county, and shaking hands with him, entertained the crowd with reminiscences and stories of Lincoln told to him by his father.

Mr. Craig, a former Mattoon man, gave an inspiring address on "Appreciation of Coles County and Community." Mr. Barrett, "Uncle Ezra," gave a short talk appropriate to the occasion. Preceding the program, a concert was presented by the Hite Band of Charleston. Following the speaking, the old Lincoln fife and drum corps played from the platform.

## "Uncle Ezra" in Talk at Park Dedication

Patrick Barrett of Chicago, widely known as "Uncle Ezra," was one of the speakers Thursday afternoon at the dedication of the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, southeast of this city. Gov. Henry Horner made the dedicatory address and Edward C. Craig of Chicago spoke on the subject, "Appreciation of Coles County and Community."

Mr. Barrett, in his address, said: "Governor Horner, Chairman Weir and Coles County Friends: I am mighty happy to be here, happy that you have invited me to take part in the dedication of the 'Lincoln Log Cabin State Park'—a new Lincoln shrine that will be preserved throughout the years.

"Today we pay tribute to Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln who now rest in sacred ground near this spot. You boys and girls here will never forget this day as you study about Abraham Lincoln in your classes. . . . You will feel nearer to the Great Emancipator, because you have taken part in these ceremonies honoring his parents.

"Abraham Lincoln was a product of the farm and small town. He helped his father with crops, chopped wood and did the hundred and one things that farm boys did in those days. . . . Then he clerked in a store in New Salem, went on and studied law, became a lawyer, but during these years of his young manhood he came here to Goose Nest Prairie Home as often as he could to pay his respects to his father and to Sarah Bush Lincoln. He was devoted to these parents, and the homely things they taught him—together with sincerity and honesty he gained by living and working with country and small town people—elevated him to the highest position in our land and made him our most beloved president.

"I love Coles county more than ever today because of the accomplished efforts of its citizens to make this Lincoln farm a shrine in honor of the parents who had such a great influence on Abe Lincoln's life. By so doing, you have not only honored Lincoln but you have honored the influence of parents in every farm and small town community who through the years have helped maintain our great nation by teaching their boys and girls the real spiritual purposes and the assets of character that go to make worth-while lives."



# ABRAHAM LINCOLN LOG CABIN ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS:

ELEANOR GRIDLEY  
President

QUEEN G. THOMAS  
Secretary-Treasurer



OFFICE: 108 NORTH DEARBORN STREET

RESIDENCE: 5844 HARPER AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.

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September 27th 1936.

My dear Dr. Warren.

Your second Questionnaire has been submitted to under the same circumstances that the first one was and , did not reach the one hundred test mark, nor did expect to, as I am not so well grounded in the pokit-cal , as I am the domestic life of Abraham Lincoln. I placed Edwin Stanton in Mr. Lincoln's first Cabinet, which a moment's thought would have told me, as I did really know. Then I failed to name the name correctly one one of the Southern Commissioners and also lost out on three dates, day of month, in all three, but year in only two. Also failed to remember the name of the Washington minister.

My knowledge of the infancy, childhood, ladhood and young manhood of Abraham Lincoln, I consider well fortified with accurate and reliable information, which I have ample I have ample proof., and as such I present it to my audiences.

I have the copies of more than one hundred letters written to the Superintendent of Public Schools in Chicago, by the principals of more than a hundred public schools , and this one I will quote, in part. " Mrs. Gridley's story of the early life of Abraham Lincoln, is fascinating and dramatic. She held the children of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eight grades of my scholl spellbound for more than an hour, even so to the close of address. " I have told my Story of Abraham Lincoln to more than half a million pupils of the public schools of Chicago and other large cities. To thousands and thousands of adults - in clubs, organizations, associations and Parent-Teachers audiences I have told a more extended and far-reaching



into his public life, with equally as complimentary a recognition of the merit of such "Talks." I am rather proud of this record and in an address of last May to an audience of twelve hundred did not lose out, a delightful reads which came a day or afterwards.

A few days ago I received another delightful letter announcing my election to honorary membership in the Lincoln Fellowship of Southern California, the President of said organization was one of my birth day guests and who was accompanied by Mr. Tilton of Danville, Ill. Oh! so many Lincoln writers and students came to see me on that glorious anniversary.

On Friday last I had another very delightful visitor, Mr. Albert Griffith of Fisk, Wisconsin. Of course, you must be aware of him as he is one of the best Lincoln students. We have had a good deal of correspondence relative to the Lincoln log cabin, in Coles County and which has very recently been-- a replica of it-- built on the the original site. Mr. Griffith called to hear my description of the aftermath. "You may hear it," I replied, and so may you, Dr. Warren.

I was informed by the Department of the Public Works and Buildings of Illinois, that I had valuable information which, in order to construct a perfect replica of the cabin, the Superintendent of Construction and his CCC workman, needed. That I knew <sup>that</sup> and that after nearly forty years of struggle to secure the Lincoln homestead farm and the amount of money to erect said log cabin and when told the State would be grateful for such assistance, the State must handle the funds and let the contract for said construction, which I refused to accept, and personally wrote that as I personally possessed, all measurements, all legal transfers ~~for~~ for a modest sum. Letters from The Superintendent of Public Works and Buildings of Illinois, letters from The Superintendent of the CCC construction Camp and a visit from the Regional District which includes Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin failed to influence me in anyway. My price was fair and the information it covered needed.

A letter from Washington informs me that the Government has no funds such a contingency. To make a long story short, my Story of Abraham Lincoln with its illustrations was loaned to the Construction Superintendent of the gentleman who became chairman of the Dedication program - the book was one that I present years ago to him and autographed at his request. but as my Story does not contain the measurements, a legal survey of the exact spot on which the cabin originally stood I am still in possession of needed information.

And now the day of days would arrive in a few days and a letter from the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works and buildings, contains the following question, "Will come and join us in the Dedication ceremonies, of transportation to and from the Lincoln State Park is provided?" "Delight to do was my reply." and I went comfortably ensconced in ~~the~~ official State automobile, its driver, in uniform, the Governor's own chauffeur, leaving Chicago at ten in the morning and getting back to Chicago at one o'clock A. M., however right side up with care.

There certain episodes along the route that filled me with wonder and admiration, which were so new and interesting I am keeping them to myself, for a while at any rate. The long delay, of two hours, of the Governor, who had been detained by Kim Farley, in the broiling sun. But I was in the shade on the speaker's stand, where during the tedious wait a number of people came to speak to me. among two men who assisted in the razing of the Lincoln cabin in ~~1888~~ 1891 and several other who told me that many of the country folks in the audience of about five thousand had come to hear me tell the story of Lincoln Log Cabin.

When ~~the Governor~~ Governor and his escort arrived two hours late, he greeted me - the first one and said I'm mighty glad you came."

Well the dedication ceremonies proceeded and Mrs. Gridley was simply introduced as the writer of the BEST history of Abraham Lincoln, invited to stand and take a bow, and no allusion to my connection with the cabin



and who knows more about the cabin than any other person living.

Many, many said that day as well as as many, many more have written me of their disappointment~~and many of them~~ as they came purposely to hear my story, while many others said and also have written the same that<sup>it</sup> was the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out of the picture.

The whole thing - from start to finish<sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ a farce, a political farce, as well as downright political propaganda, accompanied by absolute false statements, which a Democrat called my attention to, but would not had he not <sup>have</sup> been so full of firewater that he did not realize, the enormity of his disloyalty, but I had already noted the the bold misstatement and have it placed in proper <sup>sequence</sup> in my story of the Dedication of the Lincoln Lof Cabin Park, which abounds in startling surprises, which <sup>confronted</sup> ~~met~~ me continually, from almost the moment I left Chicago, in State <sup>beset</sup> ~~array~~, until my returning safe and sound. <sup>The events of that day were</sup> so filled with political-- I do not like to name it - given to me unwittingly <sup>perhaps</sup> ~~and~~ purposefully. . . Some people, no doubt would relish this experience, I do not. But I do relish~~ed~~ the large correspondence I have had, covering a period of the last three or four years, from public servants and which constitutes a dictionary of Political Lore. Tis a prize collection that I am gusrding ~~it~~ most carefully and all ~~or~~ only known <sup>to</sup> the lady who has such "valuable information," sorely needed <sup>not</sup> but <sup>contribute</sup> that "valuable information" gratis.

Does this letter bore you? It really pleases me, yet it merely<sup>ly</sup> touches upon and does not give any of the high lights. They are reserved for a more public dispensation.

I am really pausing here to say that I am signing off., with kind regards, and trying to guess why I was conveyed, under State protection to Dedication Ceremonies and returned under same espionage  
Y ours very truly.

*Eleanor Roosevelt*



September 29, 1936

Miss Eleanor Gridley  
1549 East 61st Street  
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Miss Gridley:

Thank you for your very interesting letter of September 27 giving your reaction to the Log Cabin dedication at Charleston.

It was a disappointment to me not to be able to attend but the Chicago paper the morning before suggested that it was problematical whether or not the dedication would be held, inasmuch as Governor Horner was in New York, so I did not feel like making the trip when the dedicatory services were undecided.

I am very glad indeed that you had an opportunity to visit and see at least some of your interests in Lincolniana, but regret that you were not given an opportunity to participate in the proceedings as I am quite sure that the information which you had would be intensely interesting.

You are to be complimented indeed for having told the Lincoln story to so many of our school children, as it is the best way to furnish information about Lincoln.

My itinerary next spring is being scheduled on the Eastern Coast where I will spend the months of January and February and I enjoy immensely the opportunity to visit with Lincoln students.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN LOG CABIN ASSOCIATION

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549 E. 61st Street.  
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QUEEN E. ESTES

October 2nd 1936.

Dr. Louis Warren,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren.

"A Strange Affair" is the title of the following statements Yesterday I wrote you asking to have sent to me two copies of Lincoln Lore, Nos 386 and enclosed ten cents to pay for same and mailed my letter as late as four o'clock P.M. This morning the mail-carrier delivers two copies of Lincoln Lore Nos. 386 and 387 and the envelope bears postmark of yesterday's date. Why this? My letter could<sup>not</sup> have reached you so as to have these copies of Lincoln Lore reach me in first mail of to-day. If Abraham Lincoln were here he would<sup>say</sup> "The Jinx are to blame."

As long as there is one copy of No. 386 all is well and I will proceed to call your attention to several inaccuracies and to a lack of information that made the Lincoln log cabin of any real historic value.

In the first place let me say that until about the tenth of June 1891 I was not in the picture and am not personally responsible for, <sup>acts</sup> however, I have copies of the deeds of conveyance of the log cabin to James W. Craig from John H. Hall, and which bears the words "Built by Thomas Lincoln and son Abraham Lincoln who became President of the United States," and copy of the deed conveying the log cabin to the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association by James W. Craig and I have also letters from Mr. E. C. Craig of Chicago and Judge Van Meter of Mattoon, indorsing father and grandfather's indorsement of said cabin in selling it to said Association as such said log cabin. The date of said conveyance being May 1891. A copy



of these deeds may be obtained from the Register of Deeds at Charleston, Illinois, if you so desire.

On the eighteenth of June 1891 I took up my sojourn at the Lincoln log cabin, as Secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association and its editorial representative and all statements made by me and which appear in my Story of Abraham Lincoln "The Journey from the log cabin to the White House," concerning the log cabin- its history from its construction to the end of its existence are facts known to me personally or otherwise, indorsed by affidavits, letters and other legal documents.

From the eighteenth of June 1891 the Lincoln log cabin became my especial charge. It was photographed under my instruction twelve views - it became under my invitation, a gathering place to which neighbors, old acquaintances, relatives, sight-seers and admirers of Abraham Lincoln came to ~~xxxxxxx~~ contribute their testimony of worth-while information.

The cabin was taken down a few hours after I left it and brought to Chicago

and reassembled where I had charge of the exhibit- speaking from the threshold of the cabin to throngs who came everyday for three months to the view/"wonder Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin,. Please let me, right here correct your statement by saying that the Lincoln log cabin was not exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition. To make that statement is utterly incorrect. The cabin was never an exhibit of the World's Columbian Exposition. It was again taken down from the locality where it had been reassembled in Chicago and under my direction was stored in the enclosure about the Libby Prison exhibit. It was never used as fire wood, that is also an incorrect statement.

I think it would have been well <sup>for you</sup> to have gone on with the history of the half acre of land on which the cabin stood- purchased by the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association and ~~deeded~~ <sup>deeded</sup> by the Association to M.E. Dunlap January 1892. Now to proceed this particular parcel of land became the property of Erskine Dunlap - M.E. Dunlap sole heir, his said son. On the first day of January 1929 the said Erskine S. Dunlap <sup>deed</sup> to



Eleanor Gridley the same parcel of land and in ~~ann~~ September 1929  
<sup>deeded</sup>  
 Eleanor Gridley ~~xxxx~~ to the State of Illinois the said parcel of land  
 on which the Lincoln log cabin originally ~~stood~~, without money or  
 price, that said parcel of land might be free from ~~or~~ any incumbrance  
 whatsoever, but of such gift no one has seen fit to notice. A copy of this  
 deed of mine may be obtained from the Register of Deeds at Charleston,  
 Illinois.

The State would never have been able to purchase from Martin, husband  
 of Harriet Hall, John Hall's daughter, from whom he inherited said  
 property had it not been for my advise to him and my rejection of his  
 proposition which changed his mind. <sup>has</sup> <sup>d</sup> Perhaps he <sup>has</sup> saved my letters. I have  
 all of his written to me.

It quite pleased several Lincoln students and writers to attack me  
 in the Voice of the people, sometime past. I invited all of them to  
 call on me, several did, others were not just enough to do so. Those  
 that came were shown affidavits, many of them, letters, letters ~~con-~~  
 firming my statements, everyone and recommending <sup>my</sup> trustworthiness. These  
 letters are to seen and read whenever you may call to do so.

When Governor <sup>Horner</sup> made a very grave mistake in stating the year in which  
 he said the State acquired the Lincoln farm I smiled, for I had a copy of  
~~the~~ my deed to the State, which cleared the title to the Lincoln Farm  
 Park and which does not agree with his statement.

I do not regret going to the Dedication Ceremonies. although my  
 invitation was for an ulterior <sup>1</sup> purpose on the part of the State.

Nature's weapon is the boomerang and never fails to carry out the law  
 of compensation and my heritage - superior parents, excellent training  
 and pride of good behavior would not permit me to commit a single dis-  
 courteous act.

A long letter and perhaps boresome. I hope not.

Yours very truly.

*Eleanor Gridley*

October 6, 1936

Mrs. Eleanor Gridley  
1549 East 61st Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Gridley:

I am sure that I cannot explain the strange coincidence of your receiving the Lincoln Lore you requested on the very same day of your request.

We were very glad indeed for the information your letter contained and we will be happy to file it with our Lincoln Lore.

We are very glad to have your version of the cabin story and regret exceedingly that the authorities which we used which appeared to be dependable are in disagreement with your own story.

We are very happy indeed to hear from you at any time and enjoy reading your letters.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation



4319 Live Oak St  
Dr Lewis A. Warren. Dallas Texas Oct 16/37  
Dear Sir.

Mr H. N. Lincoln a Dallas friend of mine - thought fairly  
you may like to buy an original picture I have of the Lincoln home in Coles County Illinois.

I had Lincoln moved there in 1830 I think - and they had a log rolling day - and built.

In 1893 - my Uncle Judge Craig Mattoon Ill. purchased the cabin, for 1,000.

While he owned it they took some pictures - then ~~the~~ sold it to Chicago Worlds fair - and it was torn down and moved.

My picture is about 30 x 36 - out side of frame. I imagine someone might like to give me \$1,000 for it.

I thought of getting a copy right - and selling pictures from it.

Res. Robt. M. Monroe.



October 18, 1937

Mr. John Monroe  
4319 Live Oak Street  
Dallas, Texas

My dear Mr. Monroe:

We are grateful indeed for your calling to our attention the picture which you have in your possession, but I am quite sure we have one identical like it, as we have a very large photograph framed just the size of yours, which I imagine could make the same negative. Thank you, nevertheless, for calling it to our attention.

Very truly yours,

LAW:RB

Director





**CABIN ON THE KNOB CREEK FARM.**

It was here where Abe Lincoln spent much of his poverty-stricken boyhood. The original of this replica was built by Thomas Lincoln in 1812. Here, Thomas Lincoln, jr., Abe's younger brother, was born and died when 3 years old. The lad's grave is shown at right. It was discovered two years ago on the hill above the Lincoln cabin.

## Where Lincoln Was a Boy

**Photographer - Historian James W. Loving here pictures the scenes of Lincoln's youth. Above is Knob Creek farm in Kentucky to which the Lincoln family moved when Abe was 3 years old. This view shows the "big field" of about seven acres in which Abe "dropped corn" in hills as a little boy. The creek in which he played is at the right of the field.**





LINCOLN HOME IN COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

The family moved here from Indiana in 1830. Lincoln helped build one-half of the house, the other half being added later. Lincoln's father and stepmother, Sarah, died here, supported by Lincoln in their last years.





Chicago Public Library Bldg.,  
85 E. Randolph St.,  
Chicago, Ills..

July 21st, 1939.

Dr. Lewis A. Warren,  
Director, Lincoln Life Insurance Co.,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sir:-

At the suggestion of Director Shattuck of the Chicago Historical Society, I am writing to inform you that the following described original documents have been stolen from a locked display case in the Grand Army Memorial Hall at Chicago and will probably be offered for sale:-

1. Original deed for land in Coles County, Illinois, assigning it to Abraham Lincoln, by his Father Thomas Lincoln and Sarah his stepmother. Dated October 25th, 1841.
2. Original order of Gen. U. S. Grant to Gen. Phil H. Sheridan, regarding military movements in the South. March 28, 1865.
3. Two personal letters of John A. Logan while in the United States Senate.

Should these be offered for sale, you will know that they have been stolen from this Hall.

Very Truly yours,

*Thomas Ambrose*

Thomas Ambrose, President,  
Grand Army Hall & Memorial Ass'n.

Thos Lincoln Land - Illinois

July 25, 1939

Mr. Thomas Ambrose, Pres.  
Grand Army Hall & Memorial Assn.  
Chicago Public Library Bldg.  
85 E. Randolph St.  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Ambrose:

Thank you very much for calling  
our attention to the theft of the Lincoln documents.

We will be on the alert and if we  
hear anything with reference to these items, we  
will advise you.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BS

Director



Oakland, Calif., April 8<sup>th</sup> 1941  
Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Ft. Worth, Indiana.

Dear Friends:- You, no doubt, receive all kind  
of letters, but I trust this may be different.  
Abraham Lincoln and my  
father were friends; and through that my  
family moved from Philadelphia to  
Charleston, Ill., where Lincoln had lived in  
the old log cabin which I am writing about.  
Just about 3 weeks before it was  
taken to the Fair at Chicago, - my brother  
took a photograph of it 7" x 10". I still have it  
also the little pin with Lincoln's picture on it  
that my father wore at the inauguration.

I am an old lady, past 70 years  
and up to 10 years ago had plenty of this  
world's goods. August 1931 I lost my husband -  
then all my money - had previously lost all my  
children and relatives - so now I am 200, but  
not all alone as people say, because I still have  
faith in God.

Now, this is the object of my letter -  
to you. If I send this picture and pin at my own  
expense; would you consider buying them -  
or if not I will also bear the expense of  
returning them to me.

Thanking you for a reply. I am

Sincerely yours

David A. Barker  
C 145-13<sup>th</sup> St

April 11, 1941

Mrs. Julia A. Barber  
145 - 13th St.  
Oakland, Calif.

My dear Mrs. Barber:

We thank you very much for calling to our attention the Lincoln picture worn by your father and also a photograph of the Lincoln cabin in Charleston.

While I fear we have a picture similar to the one taken in Charleston, it might be possible we do not have one such as was worn at the inaugural.

If you care to send them in for our approval, stating what you wish to receive for them, we will advise you whether or not we care to retain them. We will be perfectly willing to take care of the return charges in case we do not acquire them.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BST

Director

6  
Oakland, Calif., April 16/1941

The Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana,  
Dr. L. A. Warren, Director:

Dear Sir: Your kind letter received and it pleased me very much. I feel as though it would serve as a memorial to my father as well as Mr Lincoln, if I could place them there with you. Besides, it would almost seem as if both these dear men were telling me.

Regarding the price, I will leave that entirely to your judgment; trusting you will be just as honest with me as I would be with you.

Thanking you again I am

Sincerely yours

Julia A. Barber.  
145-13<sup>th</sup> St.

P.S. I am sending the package



April 23, 1941

Julia A. Barber  
145 - 13th St.  
Oakland, Calif.

My dear Madam:

Your picture and bust arrived safely and we are pleased to have an opportunity to see them. I feel, however, that we are not going to be able to appraise them as we are absolutely prohibited from putting prices upon property of other people.

To give you some clue as to what we have done in time past in the acquisition of such items, with reference to the little pin we do have one exactly like it. I do not know what it cost us but the finest one that we have in our collection of some 40 or 50 of these interesting pictures, we paid \$5.00 for.

With respect to the picture, we do have a very large one of Lincoln's old cabin from an actual photograph but inasmuch as Abraham Lincoln himself never lived in this cabin but was occupied by his father after Lincoln left home, we are not especially interested in it.

If you will advise us, however, how much you feel that you ought to have for these items, we will let you know whether we care to acquire them and if not, we will see that they are safely returned.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BST

Director

Q. Where is Lincoln Log Cabin State Park?

A. Near Charleston, Illinois, in Coles County. The park contains the reconstructed cabin of the Lincoln family.

Q. What became of the original Lincoln cabin?

A. This cabin was dismantled and exhibited at the 1893 fair. While plans were being considered for its future disposition it mysteriously disappeared. No trace of it has ever been found.





## Log Buildings in Illinois Their Interpretation and Preservation

by  
E. Duane Elbert and Keith A. Sculle



*Members of the John Hall family posed in front of their saddlebag log house near Charleston about 1883. This log house, built by Thomas Lincoln in 1840, has been reconstructed at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site.*

*Log Buildings in Illinois: Their Interpretation and Preservation* is intended as an introduction to the preservation and interpretation of log buildings. It is not a restoration manual, but it is intended to be thought provoking. It encourages would-be preservationists to think about the implications of undertaking any project involving a log structure. People who would shy away from more substantial structures may feel that amateurs are qualified to dismantle and reassemble log buildings. Then when the task proves too difficult, the project is haphazardly done or abandoned in midstream, resulting in the loss of historical evidence and frequently leading to the rapid disappearance of the building itself. If one is indeed determined to restore a log building, then it is time to do more reading before rolling up the shirt sleeves and going to work. *Log Buildings in Illinois* is a good place to start.

## The History and Interpretation of Log Buildings in Illinois

by Keith A. Sculle

The log building is not an endangered species. It is one of the most commonly preserved structures; yet it is also one of the most misunderstood.

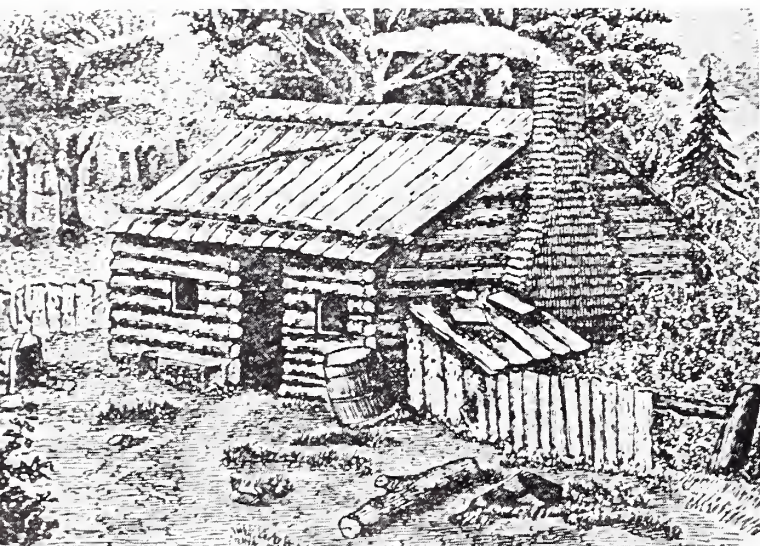
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*Keith A. Sculle is National Register Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Conservation, Division of Historic Sites. He joined the Department of Conservation in 1972 as a field surveyor with the Illinois Historic Sites Survey. Sculle, who is interested in interpreting vernacular architecture, holds the Ph.D. in history from the University of Illinois.*

If you or your group wish to preserve a log building for educational use, evaluate its cost and plan its interpretation fully and accurately. But first, ask yourself whether it is worth preserving when you consider all the log buildings that have been preserved individually or as parts of museum villages. Would your energies and funds be wisely spent to preserve it? Or would it be wise to support another project? If the log building is worth preserving, it is worth interpreting correctly.

Interpret the building fully. Of course, it can be a memorial for some important historic event or person, or it can be the stage for a "living" interpretation, including activities like





*This drawing of a log cabin, which appeared in an 1882 Henderson County history, is typical of the primitive log houses built in Illinois during the nineteenth century. Although usually built as temporary structures, log cabins were refined compared to the "three-faced" camps many settlers first occupied. Those dwellings, built in the 1820s, were three quickly constructed log walls with a flat roof of shakes. The fourth side was open.*

food preparation. Whatever the case, be sure to interpret the building itself.

Interpret it accurately. Do not make it an object for nostalgia from a vague and romanticized past — "pioneer times." Not all log buildings are the same. Learn everything you can about the people, period, and place that produced the log building you are preserving.

Anyone dealing with log cabins should keep in mind two points. One, the log house is a method of construction, not a type of architecture. A house is an architectural type, and it can be constructed of many different materials, of which logs are one. Two, persons who built log structures distinguished between the log cabin and the log house. The log cabin was often the first durable dwelling built by pioneers, but it was fashioned simply. The log house was larger, required greater skill to build, and was intended as a permanent dwelling.

Where did log construction originate? It was not adapted from the American Indians. Log construction was introduced in the 1600s to America's eastern seaboard by western Europeans, whose prehistoric ancestors had developed the techniques.

Swedes settling the Delaware River valley beginning in 1638 introduced horizontal log construction to America. But the neighboring English settlers clung to their tradition of heavy timber framing, and the Swedish technique did not spread, despite the superior protection that log construction provided against New England winters.

Almost fifty years later, horizontal construction was again introduced by immigrants from present-day Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Switzerland. Settling southeastern Pennsylvania in 1683, they became known as Pennsylvania Germans. They built a type of log building called the continental log house, which was characterized by horizontal log construction secured at the corners by one of several types of notching. The rectangular structure had three rooms — a kitchen and two living areas. A fireplace on the common wall between the rooms opened into the kitchen. On either end of the kitchen were located two doorways to the house.

Beginning in 1717, large numbers of Scotch-Irish began settling alongside the Pennsylvania Germans, bringing with them their own building tradition. The typical Scotch-Irish house was a rude one-story cottage built of mud and field stone with a thatched roof and an occasional loft. The Pennsylvania Germans and Scotch-Irish shared similar ideals, a history of economic and religious hardship, and common enemies (English and Indian). As the Germans and Scotch-Irish moved west and south in the mid-1700s, their cultures mingled and yielded a uniquely American product — the log cabin. In it was combined the Pennsylvania German technique of horizontal log construction and the Scotch-Irish tradition of a one-room structure with an end chimney.

The one-room cabin lacked space, and two ways were developed to enlarge it. The "saddlebag" house, which originated in the Valley of Virginia, was one. A saddlebag house was created when one room was added to another to make a dwelling with a central chimney. The two rooms of the saddlebag could be constructed at the same time, or a second room could be added to an existing cabin. The "dogtrot," originating in southeastern Tennessee, also provided more space. It consisted of two separate dwellings with identical floor plans joined by a central hall and covered by a common roof.

Horizontal log construction came to Illinois from southeastern Pennsylvania and the Appalachians. Although surveys of existing log buildings in Illinois are insufficient to permit extensive theorizing about variations that existed in the state, some tentative conclusions are possible. Illinois seems to have been a derivative area. Many log structures of almost every type were built, yet no style is unique to Illinois. Illinoisans built cabins of one, one and one-half, or two stories. They also built both dogtrots and saddlebags, and they erected many kinds of log outbuildings — barns, cribs, and smoke-houses.

Students of log construction have identified eight types of corner notching found in horizontal log buildings. Notching originally varied according to the building's use and the builder's skill and ethnic origin. The full dovetail notch, used in southeastern Pennsylvania for houses and the best outbuildings, was the most difficult variety to craft. But there is no evidence that it was used in Illinois. It also seems unlikely that the diamond or double notch varieties found their way to Illinois. Illinois does, however, have examples of five of the eight notching types — half dovetail, V, square, half, and saddle. Half-dovetail notching was brought from Europe to northern Virginia and West Virginia. Derived from the full dovetail variety, the half dovetail provided great stability, making it popular for use in houses. Although used in southeastern Pennsylvania, V notching came primarily from the Blue Ridge Mountain region and the Valley of Virginia, where it was the dominate notching type. V notching provided more stability



than the saddle variety from which it derived. Square notching (which required moderate skill) and the half notching from which it derived developed east of the Blue Ridge. The easiest type to make, the saddle notch, became popular farther south, where it predominated for cabins and lower quality out-buildings.

The distribution of log buildings and notching types in Illinois seems to reflect the state's settlement patterns. Only a few examples of horizontal log construction remain in the upper third of the state, which was settled by New Englanders who did not use such construction techniques. Most surviving log structures are in the lower two-thirds of the state. Half dovetail-, half-, V-, and square-notched structures are evenly spread throughout that area. However, the few remaining examples of saddle notching are confined to the lower third of Illinois, whose settlers transmitted Appalachian practices.

These theories about the relationship between culture and notching are probably true, but they remain unproven. Students of log buildings can seldom be absolutely certain of a building's construction date or its builder's name because few primary sources exist. Abstracts and tax records do not conveniently identify building materials. The best source of information is often oral history, which can be combined with written sources to make educated guesses about a building's history or appearance. However, there is evidence that at least in later years professional builders notched the corners for log buildings. That may make conclusions regarding the relationship between log buildings and ethnicity tenuous at best. And there is one final problem. Because log buildings that survive today are not representative simply because they still exist, they may not provide an adequate basis for generalizations about the past.

Horizontal log buildings were constructed in Illinois because settlers possessed the needed skills and because there was a plentiful lumber supply, but only a limited number of log structures were built. For settlers who aspired to more refined housing, log cabins were only temporary. Yet log cabins were not the first frontier dwellings. The first, built in the 1820s, were "three-faced" camps, three quickly constructed log walls about seven feet high with a flat roof of shakes. The open side served as doorway, window, fireplace, and chimney.

The area around New Salem, a central Illinois village founded in 1829, was representative of Illinois before rail transportation accelerated the rate of growth and change. One observer estimated in 1834 that one-tenth of the houses in the New Salem area were frame or brick and that the rest were log. The



(Photo by Keith A. Sculle)

V NOTCHING

SQUARE NOTCHING



(Photo by Keith A. Sculle)

*Students of log construction have identified eight types of corner notching used in fastening logs. Five of those types have been identified in Illinois, and four are shown here.*

SADDLE NOTCHING



(Photo courtesy of H. Wayne Price)

HALF-DOVETAIL NOTCHING



(Photo by Keith A. Sculle)





*Logs were used in constructing both homes and outbuildings in Illinois. This corn crib was built in timber-rich Calhoun County. No chinking or daubing was used in the interstices; air circulation allowed the corn to dry quickly. (Photo courtesy of H. Wayne Price)*

village's saw and grist mill made New Salem a trade center where grain was ground and logs sawed into boards. Yet only one completely frame structure was built at New Salem, while others were sided with clapboard.

Why weren't more frame houses built? Since New Salem had a ready supply of lumber, one may assume the villagers preferred to stay in their log houses. Perhaps those who could afford the more expensive frame houses were waiting for a town with a more certain future. Still, most New Salem cabins were built of hewn logs. New Salem residents Isaac Burner and Isaac Gulihier built the only houses of round or unhewn logs, which are generally associated with temporary housing. Maybe they were attracted by the prospect of getting rich quick because they arrived at New Salem in 1832 when the village's population was at its peak. Certainly they did not use round logs because they knew nothing better. They came from Kentucky where horizontal log construction was highly developed.

By the Civil War, Illinoisans regarded log buildings as primitive. That is why it was possible in 1860 to dramatize Abraham Lincoln's humble origins by creating the "railsplitter" image. In western Illinois shortly after the war, one newspaper boasted of the area's expanding milling business as a "fact that speaks more than a column of details for the rapid improvement of the country." Where log dwellings were not replaced by brick or frame houses, they were covered with clapboard, behind which many still remain. Log houses were not built only during the pioneer era. Many were constructed early in this century.

Americans outgrew their log houses but enshrined them in myth. Popular thinking overlooked the complexities of horizontal log construction and reduced all log buildings to one

type — the log cabin. Celebrated as Lincoln's birthplace, the log cabin was thought to have contributed to his greatness. A 1910 poem, "The Old Log Cabin," saluted Lincoln's humble origins and concluded that: "The White House of the blessed Lincoln goal/Was but the evolution of thy soul."

Sportsmen and campers were the first to rekindle enthusiasm for the log cabin as an actual dwelling. In the early-twentieth century, they began using log cabins for vacation or weekend retreats. Log cabins, which had once been considered crude, conjured visions of quiet, pastoral simplicity. Buildings that had once been rejected by the upwardly mobile became status symbols. A 1930s guide to building log cabins described the pastoral ideal that appealed to many:

The cabin in the forest, on the banks of a quiet lake or buried in the wilderness back of beyond is an expression of man's desire to escape the exactions of civilization and secure rest and seclusion by a return to the primitive.

Log dwellings have recently regained popularity in the form of machine-cut, pre-fabricated kits. The new log houses bear little resemblance to their historical predecessors in form, joining techniques, or interior spacial arrangement. The popularity of such pre-fab kits does, however, reflect the continuing American demand for individual family dwellings. It also suggests that many "pioneer" values are still alive today. Advertising for the kits features durability and informality — the same values that appealed to the early settlers. But the log dwelling that was once a temporary expedient is now chic, an anachronistic symbol of a simpler past modified to satisfy modern demands for convenience. Americans still self-consciously measure their material progress by the log house.

*The author would like to thank the following persons for their assistance in researching materials for this article — H. Wayne Price, Elizabeth Weir, Ed Hawes, Tom Vance, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Simpkins, Glenna Bass, Mrs. Lester Jingst, Bessie Barbee, Mrs. Joseph Conover, and Thomas Campbell, Jr.*



*Illinoisans did not confine themselves to building one-room log cabins. Log houses, which were larger and required greater skill to build, were intended as permanent dwellings. This one-and-a-half-story log house is fastened at the corners with V notching. This log house still stands near Warsaw in Hancock County. (Photo by Keith A. Sculle)*



# An Introduction to Preserving and Restoring Log Buildings

by E. Duane Elbert

When a historical society, a local preservation group, or an individual owner decides to save a log structure, that decision will be only the first of many to be made before the task is completed. Among the initial questions to answer are: 1) Will the structure be preserved on its original site or moved to a new location? 2) Will it be restored to a specific historical period or adapted to modern use? 3) What structural changes will be necessary to accomplish the preservation goal? 4) What is the desired (and feasible) timetable to accomplish the rehabilitation?

No matter how those questions are answered, one of the preservationist's first tasks is documentation and research. Even when there is no desire to return a structure to a historical period, the individual or group responsible for dismantling or changing a building needs to assume responsibility for recording and preserving information that might be useful to future researchers. If, on the other hand, the goal is accurate restoration, both research and documentation are absolutely essential.

Documentation of an existing log structure should take the form of both photographs and measured drawings. Ideally, instant print pictures should be taken first to immediately see how accurately details are being recorded. However, since such photographs are not archivally stable, they should be duplicated with black and white negatives and prints, which can be preserved for posterity. Thirty-five millimeter slides are also useful because they can be projected for easier visualization of details. Measured drawings are essential for recording measurements not available in ordinary photographs. Such drawings accurately preserve construction details — valuable historic evidence — that is easily overlooked and forgotten. After documenting the structure as a whole, the entire site, and all interior and exterior details, the preservationist is ready to begin the research phase.

Three different types of historical research should be undertaken to accurately restore and/or effectively preserve local history. The most common form of evidence consulted by preservationists is the *written record*. This includes reminiscences, letters, diaries, public records (such as deeds and tax records), county histories, and atlases, as well as secondary accounts that may deal with log structures on a regional or national level. The researcher should be concerned not only with the structure itself, but also with the builder and occupants of the building who may have been responsible for changes. Birthplaces and migration patterns can sometimes help determine what needs to be changed, removed, or replaced when evidence is lacking. If the structure is associated with a significant local person or family, newspaper research may yield important information.

Researchers should not overlook *oral evidence*. Interviews with lifetime residents of the area may reveal facts about structural changes as well as traditional information concerning the site, the builder, or its occupants. Diligent researchers

frequently find data regarding vernacular architecture and the everyday lives of ordinary people more abundant in oral tradition than in written records. All too often published accounts are primarily concerned with high-style structures and the social elite.



*Information on vernacular structures is rarely found in published accounts. Researchers must often consult public records, family papers, and secondary accounts for information on log structures. The history of this building and its occupants was recorded in the family Bible. Miles Beck (seated at right) built this log house near Vandalia in 1875. His family and a family friend posed for this portrait in 1896. (Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Simpkins)*

The most useful form of oral evidence is preserved on a cassette recording and obtained through a "redirected interview." In this format the interviewer first completes archival and library research so that he/she can knowledgeably talk with the informant in an informal unrecorded session, noting significant information the individual offers. Next the notes are organized, and the researcher returns for a prearranged recorded interview. This method minimizes the rambling that often occurs in nondirected interviews. On-site interviews can also provide incentives for recalling events and facts, but taping a nondirected interview while walking around the site often presents technical problems. If the structure is inaccessible by auto or the informant unable to travel, a complete set of 8" x 10" documentary photographs may be a useful substitute during a redirected interview.

The third form of historical information that should not be overlooked is *archaeological evidence*. If the original location is undisturbed, an archaeological investigation can provide such vital information as the location of fences and outbuildings. Careful documentation of those findings can present a highly illustrative picture of the material culture associated with the site. Pottery, glass, and metal shards provide historical evidence of major importance, which is often unavailable elsewhere. Though archaeological investigation can be useful and can be done by volunteers, it should be directed by a trained professional.

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*E. Duane Elbert, professor of history at Eastern Illinois University, is Coordinator of the Historical Administration Major. He holds the Ph.D. in history from Indiana University and was a post-doctoral fellow in the New York State Historical Association's museum studies program at Cooperstown, New York. Elbert is a former member of the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council.*



Not only does research make accurate restoration possible, it also leads to better historical interpretation of the preserved building as part of a museum complex. Structural documentation aids the total reconstruction of a dismantled building or the replacement of decayed members; archival and library research enables the preservationist to make accurate decisions regarding replacement of lost or changed parts and the restoration of the interior to a particular period of use.

All three research forms — written, oral, and archaeological — are necessary for complete restoration and interpretation of historic structures. But the same care should be taken by anyone who plans to destroy or alter a log building. Research information (or at least a duplicate set of records), along with archaeological evidence, should be offered to a local historical or preservation group. Such action ensures that research findings will be preserved and made publicly available. Although many log structures still remain in Illinois, little systematic research has been done on log buildings and their sites. If such structures are continually altered or destroyed without documentation, our state and local history will be considerably diminished.

Few remaining log structures are located on accessible sites ideally situated for inclusion in a local museum complex or for adaptive reuse. When an endangered log building cannot be preserved on its original site, one must decide whether to move the entire building as a unit or to dismantle and reassemble it on a new foundation. Since an intact building should be moved only by an experienced contractor, log buildings are frequently disassembled for moving. A generation familiar with "Lincoln Logs" may decide any amateur can take a log building apart and rebuild it. But while the factory-made toy consists of interchangeable pieces, its real-life counterpart does not. Each log, complete with corner notching, is unique. It fits into a specific location, and the would-be preservationist will soon realize this, to his/her dismay, if the entire structure is not thoroughly marked in a consistent manner. All too often a pile of logs is permitted to rot when the restorationist encounters unexpected delays or becomes discouraged after failing to fit the pieces back together. Once again, there should be a camera and sketchbook at hand as the logs are taken down. This stage should not be rushed. Each step must be documented as all members are carefully removed so that undamaged pieces can be reused. Even parts scheduled for replacement should be saved as documents for duplication. A ruler or yardstick placed beside each piece will provide the accurate scale for reconstruction.

No uniform labeling system has been devised. One may use compass directions (N-S-E-W) as prefixes to the log numbers, or one can use front, back, left, and right. Whatever system is used, it should be simple and usable after a long period of time. It also should be carefully written down in case someone else becomes responsible for completing the task. Logs should be numbered from the bottom up because that is the way they will be re-laid. Segments of a row, such as pieces between a door and window, should be recorded as part of a series from left to right, such as N-3-a. Window pieces are numbered from left to right and in a clockwise circle beginning in the upper left-hand corner. Suitable tags can be made of good-quality linen and waterproof ink, and they should be attached to a hidden part of the object with a non-corrosive staple. Once a piece is back in place, its identification label may be removed.

If the logs must be stored before reconstruction, they should be protected from weather and insect damage. If stored outside, they should not touch the ground, nor should they be stacked as this causes logs to warp or sag. Air should



*Most log buildings have spaces several inches wide in spots to allow for irregularity of the logs. Those interstices must be filled for proper insulation. Interstices were usually filled with chinks of split shakes or stone and then covered daubing for a smooth finish. Here, shingle chinking is covered by cement daubing. (Photo by E. Duane Elbert)*

*Metal lath was used in place of chinking in this reconstructed log building. Daubing will cover the lath, concealing this modern intrusion. (Photo by E. Duane Elbert)*



move freely around them, and they should not be tightly encased in plastic, which traps moisture and causes rotting.

Every building begins with a good foundation, but log houses and barns — normally designed as temporary shelters — usually did not have permanent foundations. Even preservationists striving for a totally accurate restoration will, to ensure the building's survival, compromise this degree of accuracy. Most cabins originally stood on sills that rested on large rocks buried shallowly in the ground, and when the sill came into contact with moist earth, rotting began. What was permissible in a temporary structure will cause numerous headaches if made part of the permanent restoration. A completely modern, deep foundation of cement or poured concrete faced with the proper type of stone, brick, or log veneer will provide the only durable support. A sealer strip should be used to prevent moisture migration from the cement to the log sill. A termite shield is another necessity, and the sill log



should be at least eight inches above the ground. A plastic vapor barrier should cover the earth under the floor (just as in modern construction), and the foundation should be properly vented. Most of those intrusions upon historical accuracy are beneath the floor and concealed from public view, but the vents should be screened by plants.

Some restored log buildings are placed over completely modern basements that provide an area for heating, air conditioning, and other modern conveniences. If properly handled, access to this area through a trap door or via a closet in the fireplace wall will not be a noticeable intrusion. Because of extended contact with moist earth, most floors have deteriorated beyond saving. Perhaps a surviving remnant will provide a much-needed clue about the floor's original appearance. In the absence of such information, determine if it would be historically proper to the area to hew the boards or to use sawn lumber with saw marks. Because the joists and the method used to tie them to the sill are concealed, modern construction methods can be used.

Once the foundation is laid, work may begin on the walls. Fortunate indeed is the preservationist who is not faced with the problem of replacing rotten or decayed timbers. All logs should be tested for soundness with a small screwdriver or icepick before being reused, and any soft pieces (or entire logs) discarded. Replacements must conform as nearly as possible to the configuration of the original members. Rarely is one fortunate enough to find spare logs of a proper size from another period building, although it may be possible to find enough pieces to splice logs partially ruined by decay. Splicing requires both skill and careful planning.

If new wood is used anywhere, especially for the walls, the restorationist should use hardwood logs of a species and size resembling the original. Although a chain saw can be used to shape the sides and outline the corner notch, a chain saw alone can never duplicate the skilled pioneer's work. A replacement created solely by chain saw will look exactly like what it is, and thus is unacceptable. Proper restoration of a log building often demands an individual proficient with a broadaxe and adz.

Stabilizing a slightly deteriorated log is one alternative to either splicing or replacing a log. Creosote and pentachlorophenol have been traditionally used in the twentieth century to retard deterioration of wood. But both chemicals give off an odor that will detract from the building's authenticity, and both are harmful environmentally. Epoxies are preferable because they not only stop decay but also solidify soft wood. Always bear in mind, however, that the use of epoxies is irreversible. While epoxies are frequently employed, the amateur should carefully study their use and understand their application precautions before incorporating them into the restoration plan.

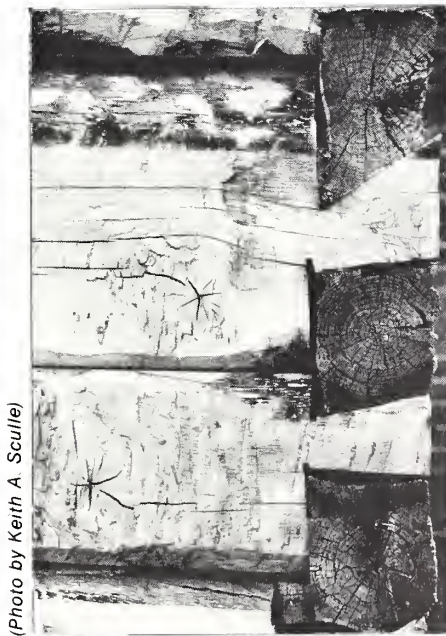
One of the most difficult tasks in replacing a log is cutting a proper notch, which should mesh with logs immediately above and below. Since the weight of a horizontal log structure is borne on those distinctively notched corners, be sure to study that particular notch and practice on scrap logs before notching the replacement member.

Once the walls are in place, attention should be turned to the roof. Often, the original covering no longer exists and the current replacement is deteriorated. Although a good roof is absolutely necessary to preserve any building, one must decide whether it is best to repair or replace it. As with the foundation, new materials (such as plywood, sheeting, and insulation) can be used in areas not visible to the public. One must be certain, however, that the visible parts conform to the original building techniques and appear to be historically correct. Historical research is perhaps the only way to determine what roof is characteristic of the period and area.

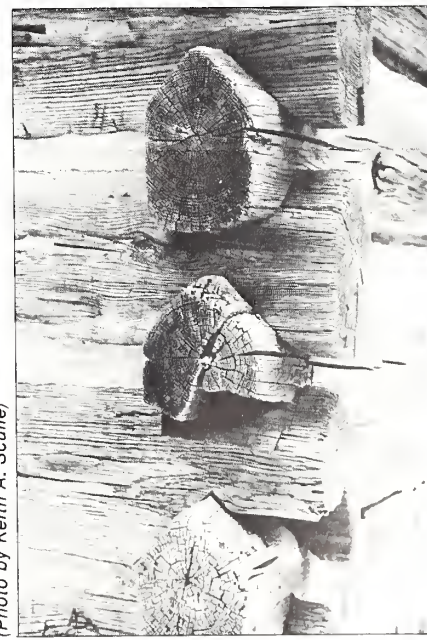
*The notched corners on this old log house, located in Tazewell County, were cut at an angle, promoting water run-off. (Photo by Keith A. Sculle)*



*Historical accuracy is imperative for proper reconstruction of a log structure. Below left: The notches for this reconstruction were cut upside down. Cut correctly, notches should shed water. Here, however, the notches will catch water, speeding deterioration of the logs. Below right: Although the V notching was properly cut on this building, the logs should not extend beyond the plane of the wall. Again, water will penetrate the log ends, causing deterioration.*



*(Photo by Keith A. Sculle)*



*(Photo by Keith A. Sculle)*



Windows and doors are often deteriorated beyond restoration. Sometimes when cabins settle out of plumb, the openings become so irregular that the original pieces cannot be straightened for the reconstructed opening. Documentary evidence, salvaged parts, and research in hardware catalogs or local store inventories may suggest authentic replacements. Frequently, extra window and door openings have been added over the years, especially if the structure was incorporated into an expanded dwelling. Determining which openings were original requires a knowledge of regional folk housing, as well as an awareness of different woods, nails, and construction methods.

If the building originally included a log fireplace lined with clay, modern techniques will have to be used in the restoration to eliminate a fire hazard. Investigate the possibility of lining the firebox with firebrick and covering it with a cement daub to simulate mud. The chimney can also be completely lined with tile since it will not be visible to the public. Original bricks can be reused, but badly deteriorated brick should be replaced with more durable ones and matched in shape, size, and color. If stone was used, it was probably locally quarried, and replacements can be found to completely restore the chimney. Modern dampers should be installed even though they were not originally used. The ability to close the flue permits more economical artificial heating and cooling if those facilities are installed later. Since visual accuracy is always a cardinal principle in historic restoration, preservationists should never eliminate the hazard of a log chimney by replacing it with brick. To do so represents a totally inaccurate vision of the past. Furthermore, log houses built after cast iron stoves became available often did not have fireplaces. It is equally inappropriate to include a fireplace in a restored log house that did not have one simply to conform to the popular image of the log cabin.

Interstices (openings between rows of logs) must be filled to properly insulate an inhabited structure. Carefully hewn and notched logs fit together tightly and require little filling. Most log buildings, however, were hastily constructed since they were often considered temporary. Those buildings will have openings several inches wide in spots to allow for irregularity of the logs. Interstices were usually filled with chinks of split shakes or stone slabs and then covered with daubing for a smooth finish. Chinking helped hold the daubing in place. Since chinks are hidden from view, restorationists often substitute metal lath or chicken wire (attached to logs with galvanized nails) in place of chinking.

Old-time daubing mixtures consisted of varying amounts and combinations of such common materials as clay, lime, mud, sand, manure, animal hair, and straw. If chunks of the original daubing remain, chemical and microscopic analysis should reveal its components. Before deciding to duplicate it, however, the preservationist must decide how permanent the restoration will be. Most log structures today are daubed with a mix containing cement, a coloring agent, and several traditional binding ingredients. When applied to wet logs on a moderately warm day, this type of daubing is more weather resistant than the original, and it is the appropriate color and texture.

If the restored structure is a dwelling rather than an outbuilding, other factors must be considered before completing the project. Is there evidence of whitewashing? Once again, chemical analysis will reveal the original ingredients. Lime-based whitewash may be used, but it must be reapplied regularly because it tends to dry and flake. Water-based paints are now available that duplicate whitewash and retain their original appearance much longer. Other questions should be answered. Was the cabin divided by a board partition? Were

cupboards or closets built in beside the fireplace? How did the inhabitants get to the loft? What furnishings were in the cabin?

If the reconstructed log structure will be a museum, one must decide if it will be a typical log home of the area or a documentary site illustrating the life of a particular family. If your goal is to restore the cabin as accurately as possible, duplicating the original, then it is imperative to maintain vigilance once structural restoration is completed. Accuracy in researching, restoring, and interpreting the interior is just as important as it was for the exterior and environment. Otherwise, even the most accurate restoration exists out of context, making historical interpretation and authentic living history difficult, if not impossible.

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# **ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S**

## **Personal Farm at PUBLIC AUCTION**

**Monday, August 8, 1983**

**Sale Time: 1:00 P.M.**

Held at the Adjacent State Park Pavilion  
**The Lincoln Log Cabin State Park**  
Fully Documented



**Auction Includes  
Adjacent 95 Acres  
Farm Land  
and Tom Lincoln's  
Farm**

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Auburn, IN 46706  
(219) 925-5401

## **THIS LAND MUST SELL TO HIGHEST BIDDER**

### **Outstanding Terms Offered**

**TERMS:** All Lincoln Farm Land, \$5,000 down sale day, earnest money deposit on each individual sale tract, Sale No. 6 will have a \$25,000 sale day deposit. The balance can be cash at the closing of the transaction or on land contract with a total down payment of 25%, with payments based on a 20-year pay schedule at 1% interest above prime. The entire balance will be due at the end of 4 years. All contract purchasers must receive approval before the bidding starts, from the Springfield Marine Bank's Mr. Michael L. McGlasson, C.C.L. Phone (217) 525-9718.

**TAXES:** Buyer pays the 1983 taxes due in 1984. Taxes on all sale tracts are approximately \$1800 per year.

**TENANTS:** The landlord's 50% share of income goes to the buyer, if the buyer pays landlord's 50% share of the crop expenses.

**POSSESSION:** Tenant has land rented until December 31, 1983. Possession at closing subject to tenants rights.

**CLOSING:** Closing to be before September 1, 1983 at the offices of the Springfield Marine Bank, East Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois. Phone (217) 525-9718. Handled by Michael L. McGlasson, C.C.L.

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**For Terms regarding one inch deeds of 4 acres of Lincoln's Farm, see pages 8 and 9 of this booklet.**

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# History of the Abe Lincoln Farm

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Most pioneer settlers acquired land as they could, and Thomas Lincoln "Abe's Father" was no exception, but, the tract he apparently prized was actually owned by his stepson, John D. Johnston. Three years after Johnston bought this farm from the Federal Government, Thomas Lincoln convinced him to sell the land. Tom Lincoln paid \$50 for the 40 acres, which was the going rate at the time. (\$1.25 per acre). Within a year, Thomas Lincoln's perennial bad luck struck again and he found himself in grave financial trouble. His Son, Abraham, by then a young Lawyer setting up his practice in Springfield, stepped in dutifully to help out. He bought the 40 acres from his father for \$200.00. This was a staggering price at the time, but it showed Abe Lincoln's duty and devotion to Thomas and Sarah Lincoln.

With his own hand, Abraham Lincoln drew up the deed, which gave him the legal title. He drafted it to give use and control of the 40 acres to his father and stepmother as long as either lived.

Lincoln visited the farm often, walking its furrows and spending time with his father and beloved step-mother. Legend says that on his last visit to the farm before leaving for Washington, D.C. to be sworn in as President of the United States and his destiny, he carved with his own hands a marker for his father's grave.

Thomas Lincoln farmed the tract until his death in 1851. Sarah Lincoln stayed on the tract receiving its income while her grandson, John J. Hall farmed the ground until her death. Four years later Lincoln died. John J. Hall continued farming the tract for more than 20 years, after which he filed for possession and obtained title to the land.

In 1866 Jacob Phipps, the Great Grandfather of the present owner, Raymond Phipps, purchased the land adjacent to the Abraham farm and the other tract owned by Abe's father, Thomas. Jacob Phipps purchased the land with money received as he was mustered out of the Union forces after the Civil War. This area was known as Gooseneck Prairie and considered rich farmland, even today. In two separate transactions, Jacob Phipps purchased the Thomas Lincoln 80 acres and the Abraham 40.

On several occasions the State of Illinois tried to purchase the land for a state park. Finally after many years Mr. Phipps sold the 80 plus acre tract to the State that belonged to Thomas Lincoln. Mr. Phipps, a shrewd thinker, kept the Abraham Lincoln land. The state then established the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, which is adjacent to this land. In recent years, on a small tract of 4 acres set up for a tourist promotion, a replica cabin was built in honor of the famous Robert William Addison poetry, "Come Home to the Cabin". This was built by a grant from the Somerset Importers, Ltd., the producers of Cabin Still Whiskey. The balance of the Lincoln farm, 30 acres in total, is now being offered for sale as a whole tract to the general public for the first time since Abraham Lincoln owned the tract.

## Part of the Famous Lincoln Heritage Trail



**Come Home to the Cabin**



**A Historic Experience  
...and  
So Much More**



For More Information Write to:  
**Lincoln Heritage Trail Foundation**  
702 Bloomington Road, Champaign, IL 61820 Ph: 217/352-1968

Nearly 100,000 visitors are attracted each year to the adjacent Lincoln Log Cabin State Park. Most all of this 86 acre park was owned by Lincoln's father Tom. Located in Coles County, Illinois, the Heartland of America.

- Interstate 57 is 12 miles North.
- Interstate 70 is 10 miles South.
- Coles County Airport is 10 miles away and served by Britt Airways.
- 21,000 people average per day traffic count on these Interstates.
- Photocopy of Purchase Agreement handwritten by Abraham Lincoln.
- A great investment.
- Good income generation for promotional items.
- Some of the area's best farmland.
- Built-in financing
- Located in the Heartland of America.
- Part of the Lincoln Heritage Trail.



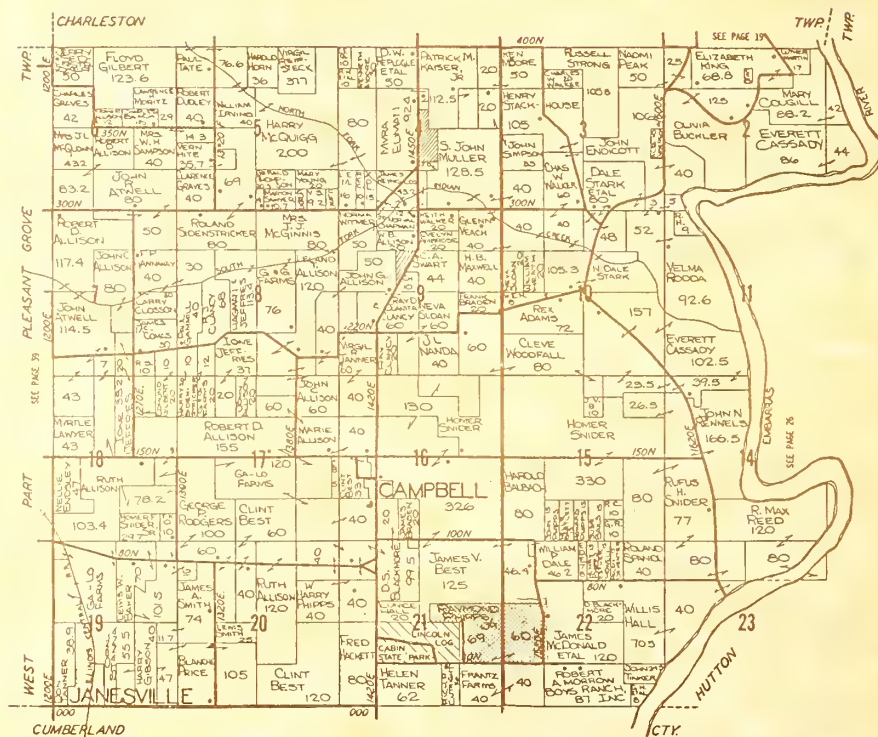
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**part of**  
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The tract of Real Estate owned by Abraham Lincoln longer than any other Real Estate, and the only tract still in private hands.

## Pleasant Grove





## Actual Sale Plot

<b>Phipp's Farm</b> <b>15 Acres</b>  <b>Sale No. 5</b>	<b>Phipp's Farm</b> <b>20 Acres</b>  <b>Sale No. 4</b>	<b>Tom Lincoln's</b> <b>20 Acres</b>  <b>Sale No. 3</b>
<b>LINCOLN</b> <b>LOG CABIN</b> <b>STATE PARK</b> <b>86 ACRES</b>	<b>4-Acre Inch Deeded Plotted Park</b>  <b>Abe Lincoln's</b> <b>Personal Farm</b> <b>30 Acres</b>  <b>Sale No. 1</b>	<b>Tom Lincoln's</b> <b>40 Acres</b>  <b>Sale No. 2</b>

**Sale No. 6:** Entire Package of Sales No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 above.

**Sale No. 7:** Square Inch Deeds from Four Acres.

**A-Above:** Cabin similar to Lincoln's Mothers.

**NOTE:** Be sure to attend this auction and bid your price sale day. Don't find out later this land sold for common farm ground prices, below what you would have easily paid.

## **A SEPARATE AUCTION To Immediately Follow The Land Auction**

**Sale No. 8** 60,000 Square Inch printed Deeds to the Abraham Lincoln farm. The 4-Acre tract that has the log cabin now situated on it. This is an undivided share of the whole. Purchaser's can visit the site dedicated, of which they would own a share.

**Sale No. 9** Over 6,050,000 square inches per acre, with the right to print your own deed. You must follow the Guide Lines of the Federal and State Approved Deeds now established and the dedicated 4 acre tract with the log cabin.

Part of the above tract of land is presently managed by the Lincoln Heritage Trail Foundation, Inc., on a 99-year lease to preserve the site. However, we will be selling promotional rights to square inches of the land.

**TERMS:** On both the above parcels: Cash or you may purchase on contract with 25% down and balance paid in 4 years, or as deeds sell. Owner is open for suitable contract terms. Interest rate - 12%.

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for Sgt. Preston of Yukon Klondike deeds of one square inch sold 21 Million Deeds.

Upon request we will furnish you the story of how Quaker Oats merchandised 21 million square inch deeds of the Klondike Territory.

**The Above Over 6,000,000 Deeds per acre at \$5.00 each  
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Authentic Deed

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**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
WARRANTY DEED**

**This Indenture Witnesseth**, That the Grantor, Abraham Lincoln Land & Cattle Company, Inc., a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Illinois, and duly authorized to transact business in the State of Illinois, for and in consideration of One Dollar and Other Good and Valuable Consideration, and in further consideration of the covenants and agreements hereinafter contained, and pursuant to the authority given by the Board of Directors of said corporation, CONVEYS and WARRANTS unto

hereinafter jointly and severally designated Grantee, a 1/6 272 640th undivided interest in and to the following described real estate:

Lot 1 of Abraham Lincoln Memorial Farm Plat as recorded in Book 5 of Plats, Page 21, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, Illinois, situated in Cook County, State of Illinois.



Said Plat being and describing a portion of the "Abraham Forty" purchased by Abraham Lincoln on October 25, 1841 from Thomas and Sara Bush Lincoln, his father and stepmother.

This is Page 1 of a two-page Deed conveying certain interests in realty. Page 2 is contained in the reverse side hereof.  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN LAND & CATTLE COMPANY, INC.,

Whenever the term "Grantee" is used herein in this instrument, it shall pertain to the grantee, his successors and assigns, and any rights of the Grantee conferred herein in the validity, construction, interpretation or effect of this conveyance shall be determined and governed by the laws of the State of Illinois.

Nº 0054242

By:   
Its President  
P.O. Box 1776 • Springfield, Illinois 62705

**"Come Home to the Cabin"**

Shown here is the Lincoln Heritage Trail Foundation's Cabin Still Cabin, built with funds provided by Somerset Importers, Ltd, a Norton Simon Inc. Company through a grant to the Lincoln Heritage Trail Foundation. The Cabin Still Cabin was erected on the only farm ever owned by Abraham Lincoln, next to the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, south of Charleston, Illinois, to honor the native Kentuckian and favorite son of Illinois.



Log Cabin now on this 4-Acre Park Site.



## Adjacent State Park



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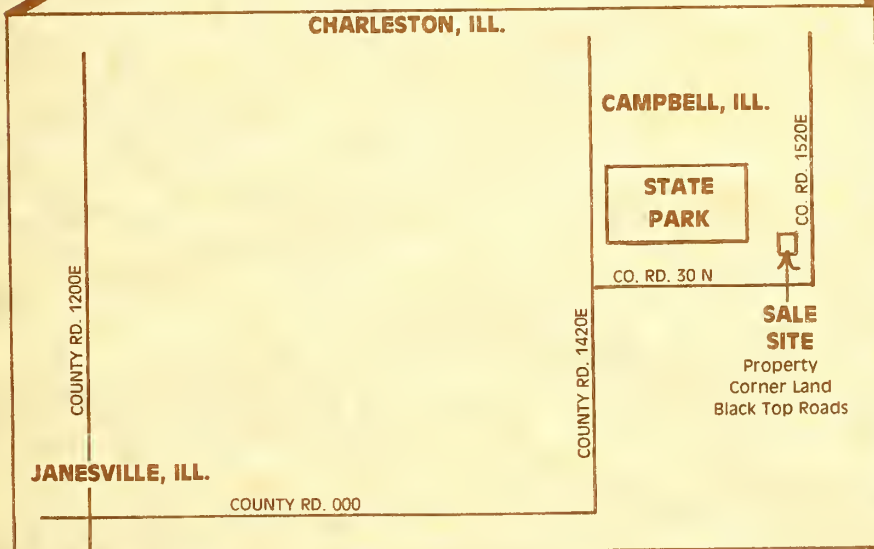
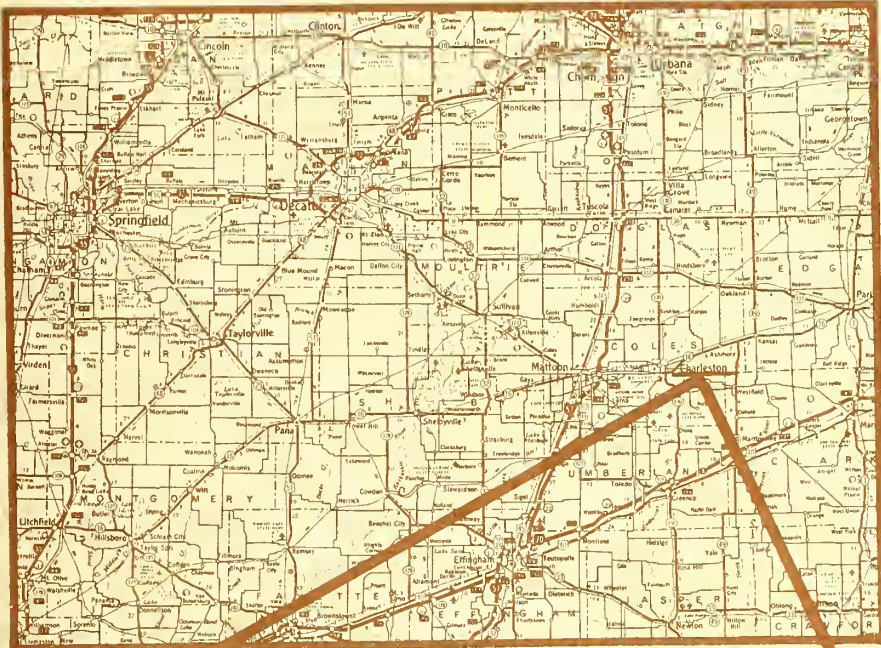
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## Sale Site Location Map

From Charleston, Illinois take Fourth Street Road and follow the signs to Lincoln Log Cabin State Park. (8 miles south of Charleston on the Lincoln Heritage Trail.)



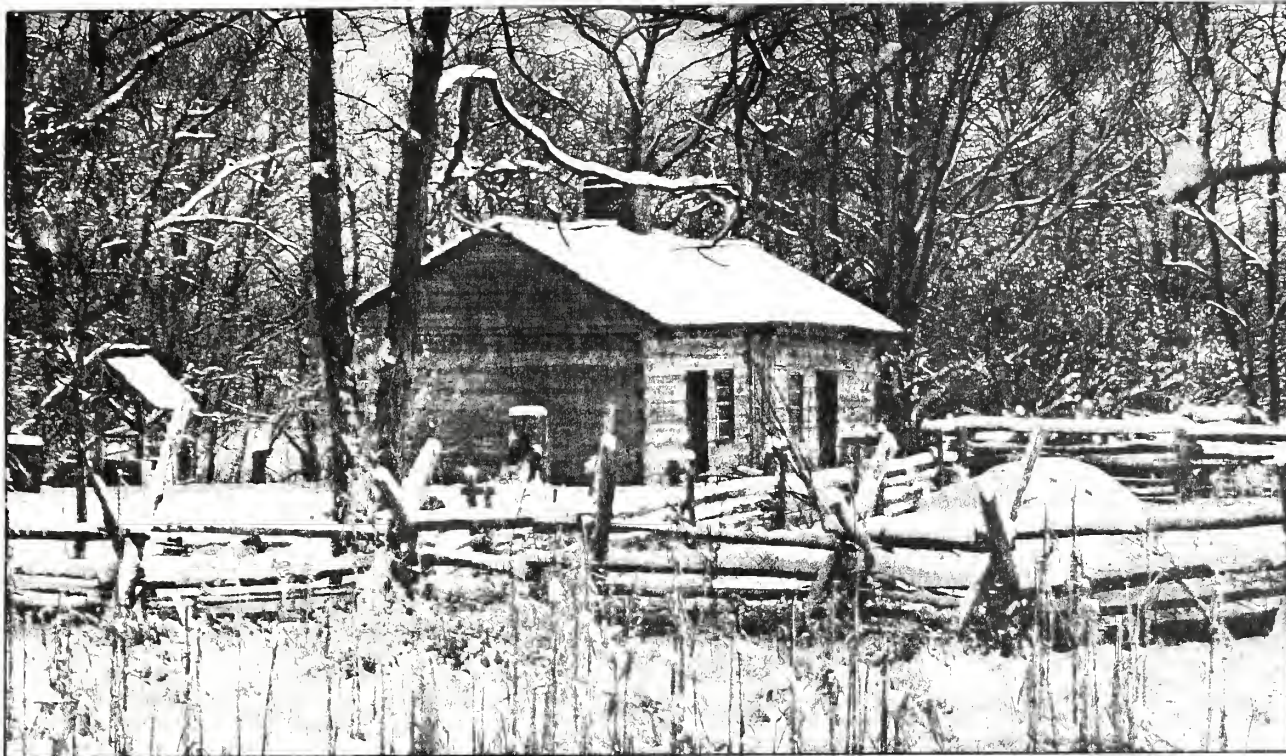
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Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site

Tom and Sarah Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's father and stepmother, built their last homestead at this

spot near Charleston. The Lincoln Log Cabin group re-creates farm life on the prairie in the 1840s as

accurately as possible. After Springfield, it is the most popular Lincoln attraction in Illinois.

## Lincoln Log Home

By EVELYN  
GOODRICK  
CORRESPONDENT

**C**HARLESTON — Lincoln's Birthday will probably be like most other winter days at the Lincoln Log Cabin, about eight miles south of Charleston.

Despite the prairie winds and cold, intrepid tourists will stop by to see how Tom and Sarah Bush Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's father and stepmother, lived some 150 years ago.

Even in January, when no programming is offered, about 2,350 visitors stopped at the historical site. They can peek into the two-room cabin, which serves as a mute reminder of the simple origins of the nation's 16th president.

Come May, the cabin will be brimming with activity, 1840s style. Visitors will be able to enter a time warp when they step through the cabin's door. Inside you're likely to find a woman in a bonnet and long dress, perhaps lending a simple meal on the hearth. As you come in, she may well look up and ask, "Fixin' to settle here?"

No matter how a visitor tries, the friendly housewife will persist in her conviction that it's 1845, and anyone stopping by is a pioneer like herself. The interpreters assume the dress, speech patterns and life history of the Lincoln clan and their neighbors.

The Living History approach has helped make the Lincoln Log Cabin second only to the Springfield sites as a Lincoln attraction in Illinois. In 1990, nearly 125,000 people from 50 states and 34 foreign nations visited the cabin, says Tom Vance, who has been site supervisor for 16 years.

### Re-creating Tom and Sarah Lincoln's 1840s Illinois farm

Compared to New Salem State Park, with its 23 buildings, the site is not very large. But its very limits have worked to the Lincoln Log Cabin's advantage, says Vance. "We can focus."

The cabin was reconstructed in 1935, after the original was lost in the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Today the replica is the linchpin of an 86-acre site that includes a second 1840s dwelling, a period barn, numerous outbuildings, split rail fencing, and an assortment of farm animals. Also open to the public is the nearby Moore Home where Lincoln visited his stepmother in 1861 before going to Washington to become the 16th president.

Along with physical expansion, the site now has extensive programming including special events such as an old-fashioned Independence Day celebration, a Bluegrass Festival in August, a storytellers day, and a Harvest Frolic and Trades Fair in October.

The festivities reflect intensive research into the lives of Tom and Sarah Lincoln, who in 1840 settled at the prairie farm that turned out to be their last home. Son Abraham was living in Springfield, but Uncle Tom and Aunt Sally, as everyone called them, had plenty of company in the cabin. A total of 17 kin — 11 of them children — made their home there.

The cabin's occupants as well as their neighbors have become "characters" in the re-creation of 1845 life. About 120 volunteers and some seasonal employees take turns as interpreters after training sessions to learn the dialect and history of the period. They

also assume the personality of the character they're portraying.

For instance, Mary Johnston, Sarah's daughter-in-law, will reveal, if prodded, that her husband, John, keeps a still in the woods. (Don't fret, he's paid taxes.) But still-tending seems to be John's chief activity. Called the "Beau Brummel" of the prairie for his fancy clothes, John, prefers "to sit under a tree, tinkin' about what things is to be done," complains his industrious wife.

In winter, menfolk should have been out mending fences, fixing harness and hunting deer or rabbits. "People were acclimated to the cold weather better than we are today," says Vance, who doesn't ask the volunteers to brave Illinois winters.

In summer, however, volunteers and staff use 1840s methods to farm 10 acres to produce hay, wheat, corn and Irish potatoes. In a kitchen garden women grow squash for a noon meal and beets for the pickling like Aunt Sally did 150 years ago.

Draft horses plod through the fields, sheep doze in the shelter of the barn, and chickens flutter in the yard.

Tom Lincoln, age 67 in 1845, was a "subsistence farmer" who followed the farming techniques of his father and grandfather. Eventually, the Lincoln site will contrast the simple Lincoln farm style to the "progressive" farming practiced by Stephen Sargent.

In recent expansion at the Lincoln site, Sargent's 1844 clapboard house has been restored across the meadow from the cabin. The house was transplanted from its original location about 10 miles to the east on the Old York Trail connecting Charleston to Marshall. "Lincoln knew the Sargents well and visited at their home more than once," wrote Charles Coleman in his book, "Abraham Lincoln and Coles County, Illinois."

The Sargent house is 1½ stories, with walnut siding, wideplank red wooden floors, walls painted a cheery yellow, slate blue woodwork, and handsome period furniture.

Visitors often express surprise that an 1840s prairie farmer lived so well. But Sar-

### Special events

The Lincoln Log State Historic Site is open daily without charge from 8:30 a.m. until dusk, although full services and programming will not begin until the first weekend in May. Upcoming special events are:

■ May 5 — From sheep to covertlet. Everything visitors want to know about 19th century wool processing, including demonstrations of sheep shearing, spinning and weaving.

■ May 12 — Abe visits his parents. On Mother's Day, Abraham Lincoln will be at the farm for one of his twice-yearly visits.

■ May 26-27 — Itinerant tradesmen visit the farm.

■ July 4 — Independence Day will feature an 1845 Fourth of July celebration.

■ July 21 — Storytellers will visit the farm to swap a tale or two.

■ Aug. 11 — Musicians will gather for a bluegrass festival.

■ Aug. 25 — A camp meeting will attract lively preachers delivering the gospel 1840s style in a re-creation of the important religious side of frontier life.

■ Oct. 5-6 — At the harvest frolic and trades fair, neighbors will gather to harvest crops, prepare food for the winter, work on crafts, and enjoy music.

■ Dec. 7-8 — 1845 Christmas.

gent was New Hampshire born, and to a Yankee, a cabin was only temporary, according to Joe Woodard, a guide at the site. "To the best of our knowledge, this is the appearance of the house in 1845," said Woo-



## CABIN

From page 19

dard.

The house was moved to the Lincoln site in 1985, but craftsmen worked on it nearly four years before it was opened to visitors in August 1989. Color chips from the house were matched to provide paint colors, and carpenters used 1840s tools to restore the rotting beams and woodwork. Records were checked so the furnishings are as authentic as possible, down to the four-poster bed resembling the one in which Stephen Sargent died in 1878 at the age of 81.

A former stonemason and storekeeper, Sargent was a "book farmer" who learned about new agricultural methods through reading. Tom Lincoln, however, did not go for "fancied" farming techniques, and grew only enough crops to feed his family and use for barter. Sargent farmed 100 acres, compared to Lincoln's 120, and Sargent's holdings of livestock and work animals was much greater, according to 1850 census records.

But Woodard, for one, is impatient with Tom Lincoln-bashing.

"He's gotten a bad rap," Woodard said. "Everywhere he went he owned land. Someone who was poor trash would have just squatted."

To Woodard goes the honor of playing Ab'ram, as the family called him. In 1845, Lincoln was a 36-year-old attorney who augmented his Springfield practice by riding the Eighth Judicial Circuit for legal work. Although Charleston wasn't on the circuit, Lincoln passed through the town, and several times a year he visited his parents on their nearby farm.

Woodard is tall, lean, dark-haired, with deep-set eyes and strong features. His resemblance to Honest Abe is almost eerie. But he plays the role only twice a year at the Lincoln Log Cabin — in May and October, when Lincoln was known to visit his parents.

Such is the site's dedication to authenticity. To Woodard, the goal of the elaborate re-creation of an 1840s prairie world is "less education than provocation."

"It's to provoke people into thinking how things are different now than they were 150 years ago," he explained.



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## Lincoln land purchased for \$1.25 million

By DAVE FOPAY, Staff Writer  
[dfopay@jg-tc.com](mailto:dfopay@jg-tc.com)

CHARLESTON — Coles County land that Abraham Lincoln once owned, and which was the subject of a court battle, has been sold.

Reasons behind the sale or plans for the property aren't known, but county records show nearly four acres of property near Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site sold earlier this month for \$1.25 million. Raymond Phipps of Springfield, whose family owned the land for several years, sold it to an organization listed as Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Historical Farm LLC.

The sale records don't list names of anyone directly connected with the organization, which the records say is based in Rockford.

The records do identify Chicago attorney David Rosenberg as an agent for the group, but, when contacted, he declined to comment on the sale. Attempts to contact Phipps were unsuccessful.

The property is part of what Phipps promoted several years ago through a company called the Abraham Lincoln Land and Cattle Co., Inc. The corporation sold deeds to souvenir square-inches of one acre of the land, and the eventual purchase of one of the deeds by Mattoon attorney L. Stanton Dotson later set off a legal battle over the property's ownership.

Dotson started paying property taxes on one acre of the land after seeing a legal notice that indicated Phipps wasn't paying them. Dotson claimed ownership of the land after a certain period of time and then filed a lawsuit asking that he be given title to it.

Then-Judge Robert Cochonour awarded Dotson the title in March 2001, but in August of the following year that decision was overturned by an appellate court and ownership returned to Phipps.

Lincoln owned the land at one time because he bought it from his father, who was in need of money, though Lincoln continued to let his father farm the land as he did before the transaction.

Contact Dave Fopay at [dfopay@jg-tc.com](mailto:dfopay@jg-tc.com) or 348-5733.

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# Plan to Rebuild Lincoln Log Cabin in Charleston's State Park

By ROBERT YOUNG

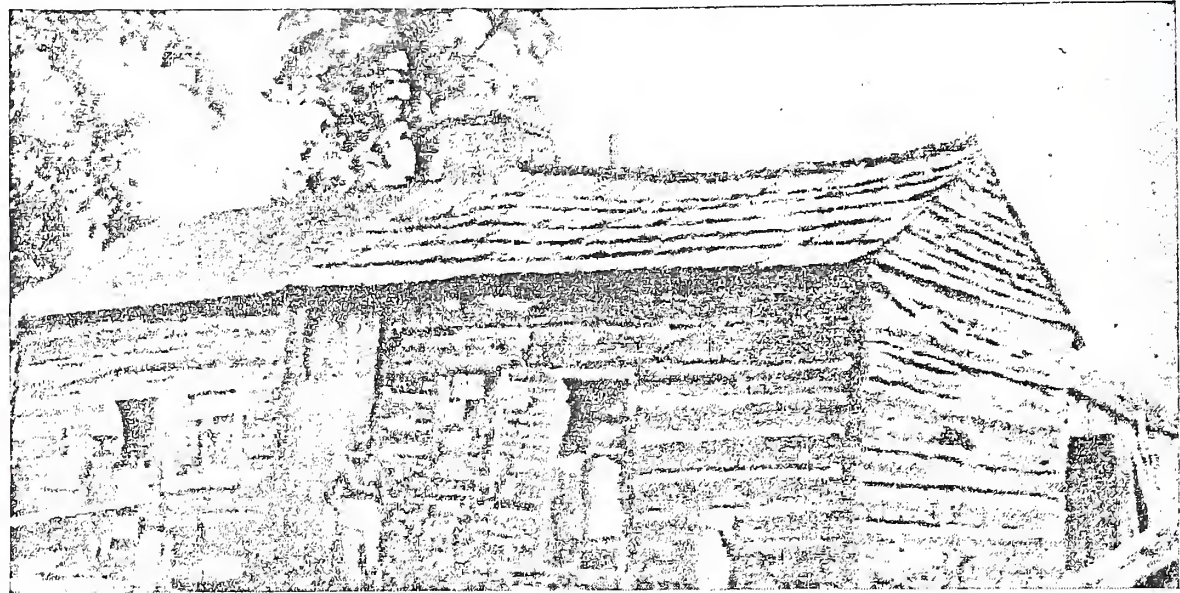
Herald & Review Staff Correspondent

CHARLESTON—Lincoln's Log Cabin State park is the official name which has been given to the 86-acre tract of land which formerly comprised part of the farm of Thomas and Sarah Rush Lincoln in Pleasant Grove township, Coles county.

This property, which contains the site of the log cabin which Abraham Lincoln's father and step-mother built and lived in until their death, has been acquired recently by the state and made into a state park. Thirty-four acres of the land were bought from the Lincoln Memorial Association, which had bid the section in for \$1,800 at a sale conducted by Bert B. Cole, master in chancery of the circuit court. The remainder of the land was secured a year ago through condemnation proceedings against the estate of John Hall.

The Lincoln farm is located about 12 miles south of Charleston in what used to be known as Goose Nest Prairie. It is one mile south of the village of Farmington. The cabin in which the Lincolns lived on his farm was built by Thomas Lincoln in 1837. It was built on a 160-acre tract purchased from John D. Johnson and Reuben Moore.

Thomas Lincoln borrowed the money with which to buy the land and Abraham Lincoln helped him to keep up the interest and later paid off the remainder of the principal. After the death of his father in 1854 Lincoln deeded the farm to John



Thomas Lincoln cabin, 12 miles south of Charleston, is located on "Goose Nest Prairie" farm. This land is part of the 86 acre tract recently acquired by the state and now known as Lincoln's Log Cabin State park.

Hall to care for his step-mother, who died in 1869.

This was not Thomas Lincoln's first residence in this county. He first made his acquaintance with Coles county when he passed through on his way to Salem from Gentryville, Ind., in the spring of 1830, when Abraham was 19 years old. He passed

through Charleston. It is believed, and through the village of Paradise in the southwest part of the county, then up through Decatur to Old Salem. There they built a cabin and lived a year. Lincoln did not live with his parents after they went to Salem but worked at various odd jobs in the village. It was while he was in Salem

that he started studying law.

After living here a year, Thomas Lincoln became dissatisfied and started back to Indiana. After remaining in Salem. They passed through Paradise on their way back, it is said, and were persuaded by friends there not to return to Indiana. They made their first settlement then in Coles county,

in 1831, in what is known as Buck's Grove, three miles west of Lerna in Pleasant Grove township.

Nothing remains of this house. Three years later, in 1834, Thomas Lincoln bought 40 acres southwest of Lerna but not far from the first home, and built another cabin at that place. Only a few granite boulders from the foundation of fireplace remain of that cabin. Then in 1837, Thomas Lincoln built the cabin near Farmington, where he spent the remainder of his life.

It is said that the only time that Lincoln lived with his parents in Coles county was while they resided on the Buck's Grove farm. He spent the winter season with them there, it is said, and according to tradition cut several loads of cord wood with his father and hauled them into Charleston. It is also said that he and a cousin, Dennis Hanks, helped construct a bridge near Greenup during this time.

LINCOLN'S last visit to Coles county was in February, 1861, shortly before he was inaugurated President. He came to Mattoon from Springfield and rode over to Charleston in the caboose of a Big Four freight train in company with "Uncle Joe" Cannon and Col. A. H. Chapman of Charleston. Sarah Bush Lincoln was staying in Farmington with neighbors by the name of Moore, and Lincoln and Col. Chapman went there for dinner.

After dinner Lincoln went to the Shiloh churchyard, where his father was buried, and with the aid of an ax and saw fashioned and erected wooden markers for the grave. The wooden slabs were stolen later by relic hunters and the grave was un-

marked until 1880, when a stone monument was erected by the Lincoln Memorial association of Shiloh. This stone marked the graves of Lincoln's father and step-mother until in 1921, when the Danville Lions' club put up the present large stone.

No trace of the Lincoln cabin remains on the farm. The stones which formed the fireplace have been taken to the farm of R. B. Rogers, a Lincoln enthusiast, to prevent them from being carried away by souvenir hunters. The present whereabouts of the cabin is unknown. In fact it is not known whether or not it exists anymore. The late James W. Craig of Mattoon, realizing the value that would be attached to the cabin, bought it from John J. Hall some time prior to the World's fair in Chicago in 1893, paying \$1,000 for it.

In 1892, the records show, he sold it to the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin association for \$10,000. This organization exhibited it for a time at the World's fair, but before the fair was over the cabin disappeared and no one knows, or will admit that he knows, what became of it. One rumor has it that the aristocratic wife of Robert Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's son, found this public testimony of the poverty of her husband's grandparents not at all to her liking and had the cabin taken out into Lake Michigan and the logs weighted and sunk.

Plans now being made for the development of the park include the finding and restoring of the Lincoln cabin, if possible, and if not, the building of a replica on the site of the original.



## Disposition of Lincoln Farm in Coles County

The "East 40", owned by A.L. To John J. Hall, 5/7/1888, by  
undisputed possession. Affidavit in Coles Co. Deed Records,  
Vol. 73, p. 104.

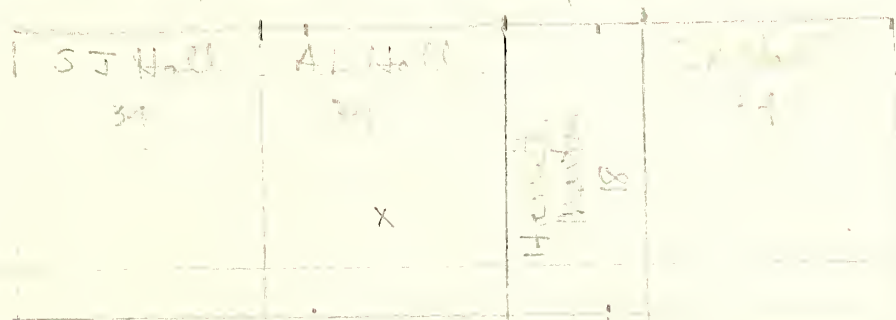
The "West 80". Inherited by A.L. Sold to John D. Johnston  
8/12/51 for \$1.00. Coles Co. Deed Records, Vol. O, p. 215.

Sold to John J. Hall (nephew of J.D.J.) 11/27/51 for \$250.  
Coles Co. Deed Records, Vol. Q, p. 122.

~~Cabin site (26/100 of an acre) sold to "A.L. Cabin land"~~  
Cabin only sold by Hall to James W. Craig for \$1,000, 8/8/1891,  
Coles Co. Deed Records, vol. 83, p. 293.

Cabin site (36/100 of an acre) sold to "A.L. Cabin land" by Hall  
for \$200, 8/15/1891. Coles Co. Deed Records, vol. 83, p. 460.

1913 Coles Co. Deed Records, vol. 100, p. 100, for the  
120 acres of the Lincoln farm.



John J. Hall died in 1914

# SHILOH LINCOLN MEMORIAL CLUB

JANESVILLE, ILLINOIS

The following are the present officers of the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Club:

Harry Jones ..... President  
Mrs. F. A. Whitacre..... Vice president  
R. B. Rodgers ..... Sec.-Treas.  
A. Sumerlin ..... Publicity Director  
Lerna, Illinois

Directors—R. B. Rodgers, George Grimes, L. W. Baker, W. F. Price, J. A. Grimes, R. H. Baker, Harry Dallas, W. F. Reed, Mrs. R. B. Rodgers and F. A. Whitacre.

Life membership ..... \$1.00

The Club was organized, November 19, 1922, and received its charter from the state December 5th, 1922. The monument erected to the memory of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln was formally dedicated May 23, 1923.

## PREAMBLE

We, the patrons of the SHILOH LINCOLN MEMORIAL CLUB, and citizens of the United States, as a Chartered Association, in order to care for the Lincoln graves and the cemetery wherein the Lincoln graves are situated do adopt the following Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order:

## MOTTO

"Care for the Graves of the Dead as You would Have Others Care for You"

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE 1—NAME

This Association shall be known as the SHILOH LINCOLN MEMORIAL CLUB.

### ARTICLE 2—OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The officers of this association shall be a President, a Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and ten (10) Directors.

Sec. 2. The officers of this association shall be elected by ballot, a plurality of the votes cast being necessary to a choice.

Sec. 3. Election shall be held on January 15, of each year, the date of the death of the Father of the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln.

Sec. 4. Officers shall be installed on the date of their election or by the Secretary-Treasurer at any time thereafter.

Sec. 5. Any member shall be eligible to office upon filling all requirements.

Sec. 5. Every official vacancy shall be filled at a regular, adjourned or called meeting as soon as practicable after such vacancy is known.

Sec. 7. Each officer shall take charge of all books, papers and documents pertaining to his office and shall transmit

on retiring from office to his successor.

Sec. 8. All officers shall be elected for five years.

## ARTICLE 3—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the association, call all special meetings, supply all temporary vacancies in office and perform such other duties as may devolve upon him.

Sec. 2. The vice-president shall perform the duties of the president.

Sec. 3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive all money of the association and carry on the correspondence of the same. All moneys shall be paid out by Secretary-Treasurer on order made by President.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duties of the directors to defend or prosecute all claims of the association, to promote the general interest thereof, to control and manage the affairs and funds and to recommend by adoption such measures as they think best to secure the prosperity of the association.

## ARTICLE 4

Any person on the approval of the board of directors may be eligible to membership and entitled to one vote in person or by certified proxy.

## ARTICLE 5.

The constitution and the by-laws and rules of order hereunto annexed may be altered or amended by two-thirds vote of the members present or their certified proxies at any regular meeting or adjourned session thereof.

## ARTICLE 6.

This constitution and by-laws hereunto annexed or such portion as may be adopted not conflicting with the laws of the State or the United States shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE 1.—MEETINGS

Sec. 1.—This Association shall hold its regular annual meeting in Shiloh Church Building, near cemetery, on the 15th day of January of each year at one o'clock P. M. unless otherwise ordered.

Sec. 2.—At regular or call meetings five members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

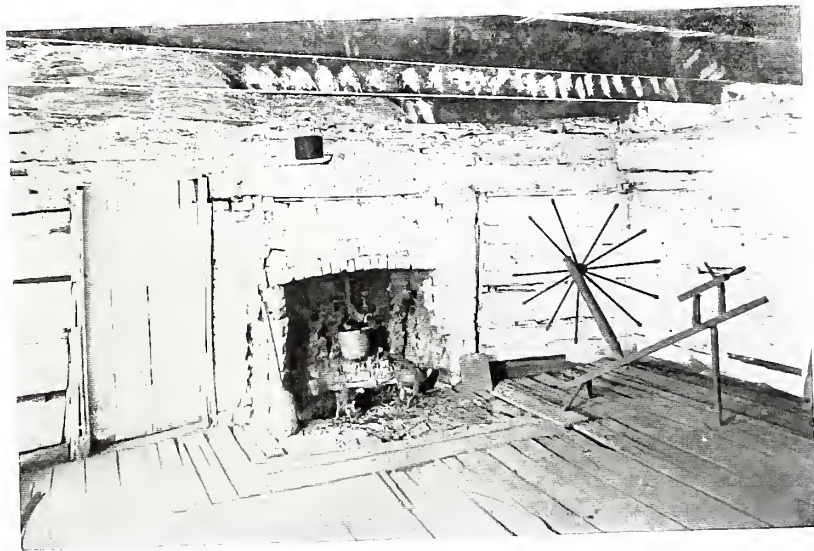
Sec. 3. For special or called meetings three notices shall be posted in public places specifying the time, date and object of meeting.

## RULES OF ORDER

Roberts Rules of order shall be authority on all points of parliamentary practice.

Address all Communications, Applications for Membership or Donations to  
R. B. RODGERS, Secretary,  
Janesville, Ill.



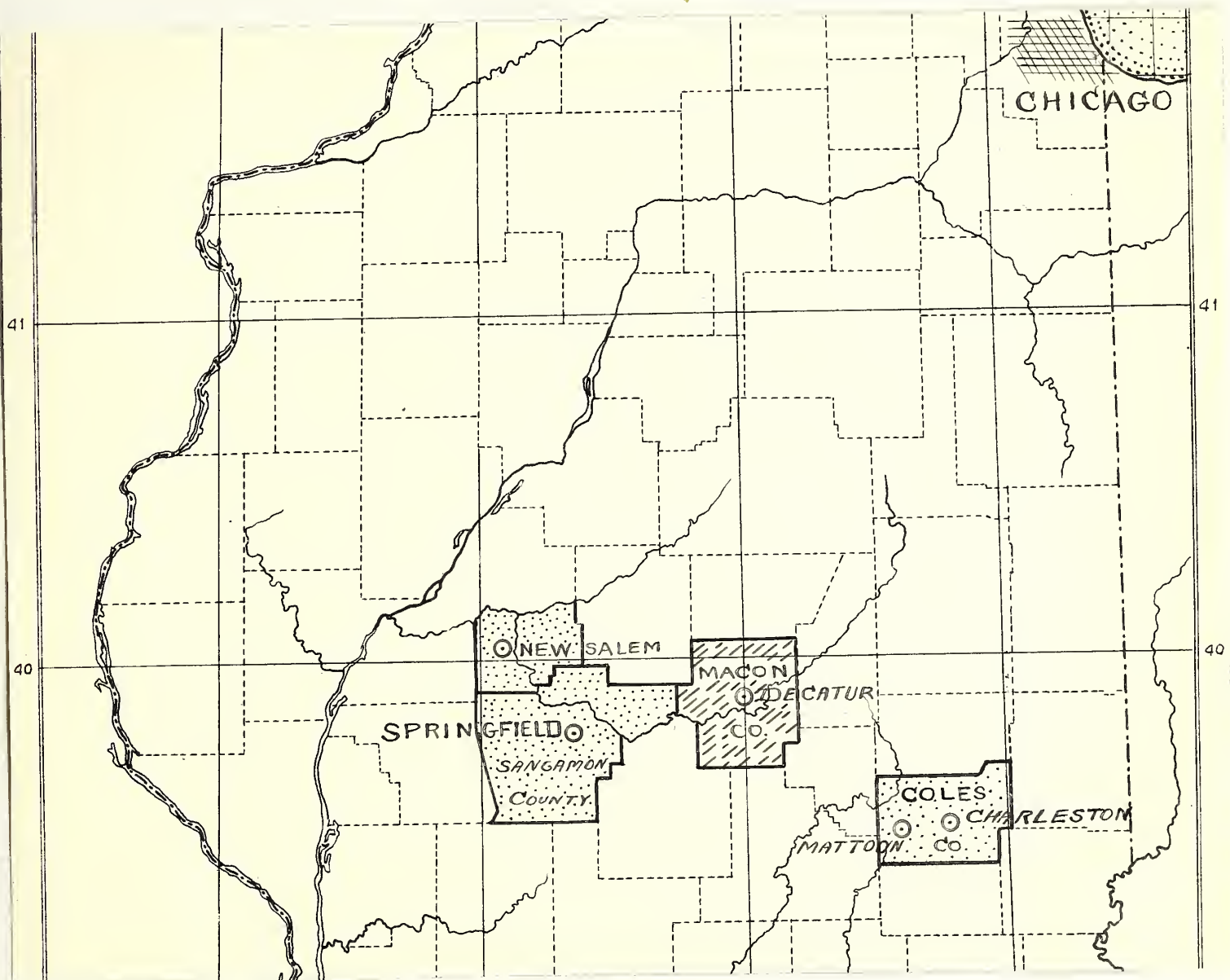


Interior of Lincoln's Log Cabin on Goose Neck Prairie, showing Grandma Lincoln's spinning wheel. The yarn spun upon it she used in make Abraham Lincoln's clothing & stockings.

## MAP OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

While Lincoln, now of age, was seeking his fortune elsewhere, his parents became dissatisfied with their Macon Co. home and started to return to Indiana. They decided, however, to try another home in Illinois, and settled permanently seven miles south of Charleston in Coles County.



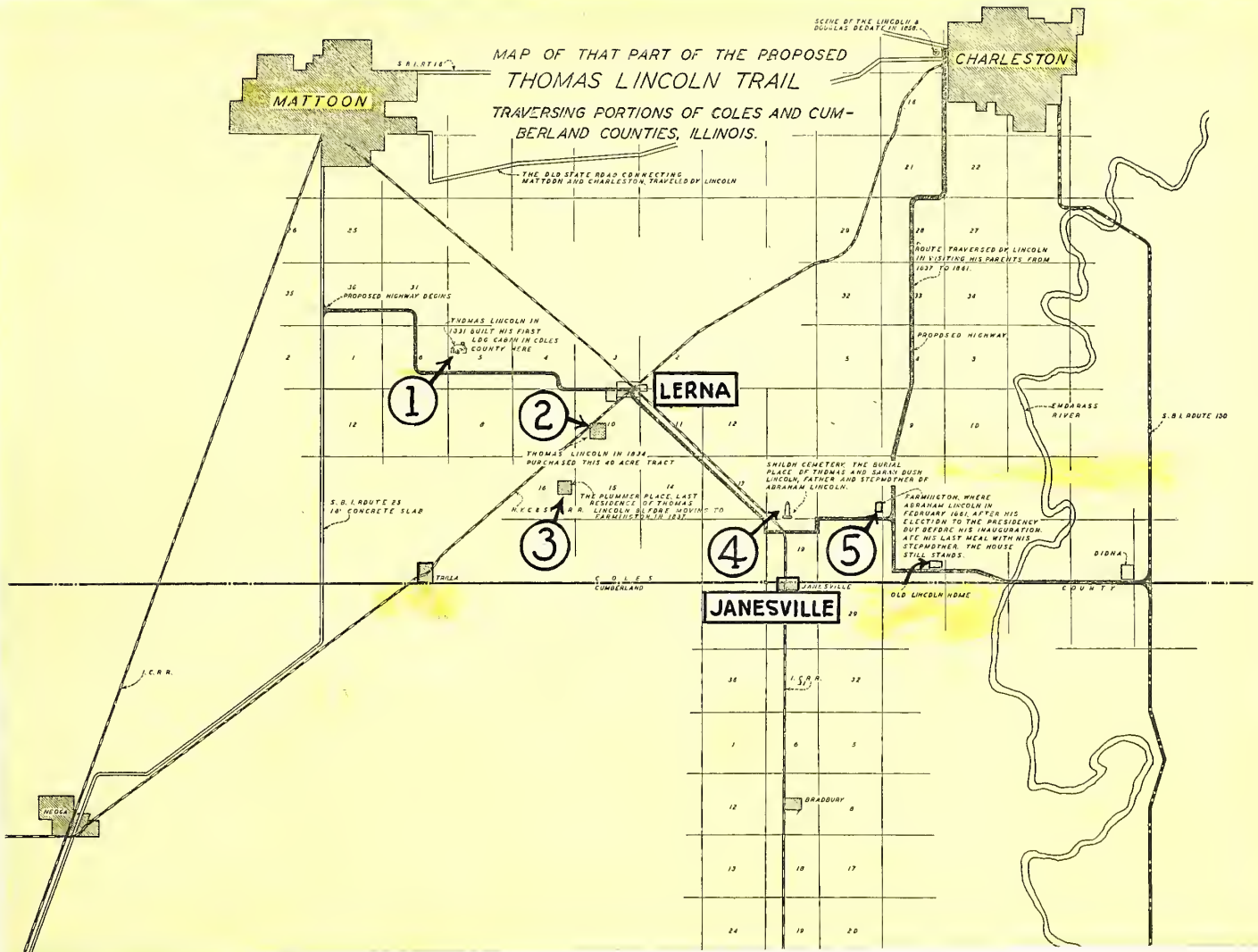


## MAP OF THE LINCOLN HOMES IN COLES COUNTY

This map shows the location in Coles County of points of interest in connection with the Lincoln family.

1. First home, 1831
2. 40 acres purchased in 1834
3. Second home
4. Shiloh Cemetery where Thomas and Sarah Lincoln are buried.
5. Last Illinois home of Lincoln's parents, where they lived until their death.







1

LERNA

2

3

4

5

TRILLA

GOOSE NEST  
PRAIRIE

LINCOLN  
HOMESTEAD

JANESVILLE



14

## COLES COUNTY HOMESTEAD

This picture represents the last home of Thomas and Sarah Lincoln in Coles Co. The neighborhood was known in a general way, as "Goose Nest Prairie" or "Farmington". Janesville is the nearest town.



GOOSE-NEST PRAIRIE, NEAR FARMINGTON, ILLINOIS, WHERE THOMAS LINCOLN LIVED AND DIED.



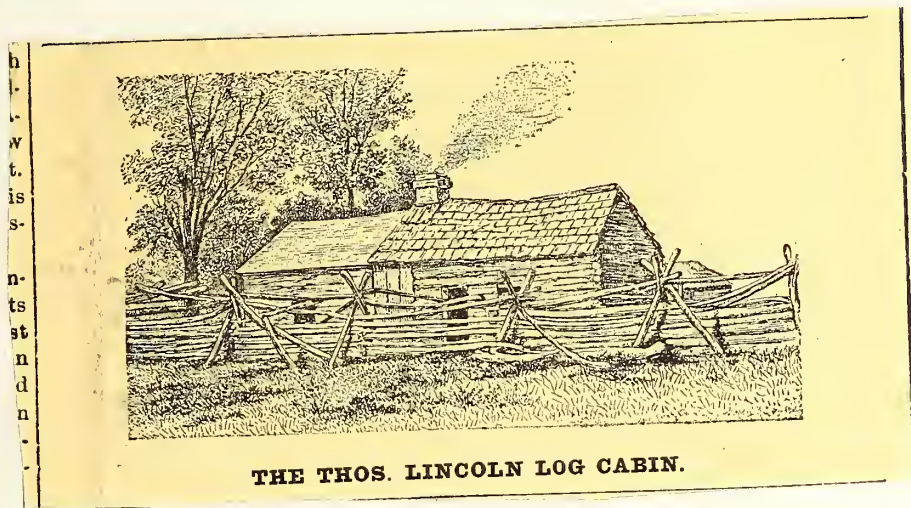
# SITE OF COLES COUNTY HOMESTEAD

The Goose Nest Prairie homestead was removed for exhibition purposes in 1892. This picture shows the site of the cabin as it appears to-day.





Thomas Lincoln Log Cabin



# BRIEF REVIEW OF THE LIFE OF THOS. LINCOLN

## Something of the Poor and Humble Father of A. Lincoln.

While the name of Abraham Lincoln is inseparably connected with Illinois, and the capital city of the state, Springfield, is the scene of his sepulchre, the responsibility for that connection rested in his father, Thomas Lincoln, a Kentucky pioneer, who came to this state from Indiana, after going there from the wilds of Kentucky.

It is to honor the memory of Abraham Lincoln's father as well as another memorial tracing to Abraham Lincoln, and reverence for the memory of his step-mother, Sarah Bush Lincoln, that the Lions of Illinois today unveiled and dedicated the monument marking those parental graves in the Old Gordon cemetery, near Jacksonville.

History relates that about the year 1780, a man by the name of Abraham Lincoln left Virginia with his family and moved to Kentucky. But two years after his arrival there, and while still a young man, working one day in a field, he was fatally assassinated by an Indian, who shot him to death. His widow was left in extreme poverty with five small children, three sons and two daughters. It was the youngest of the sons, Thomas, who was the father of Abraham Lincoln, first martyred president of the nation.

No Record of Wanderings.  
So humble a man was Thomas Lincoln, no record was kept of his wanderings with his family in quest of a permanent home. He was the poorest of the poor, and it is said to have been able to neither read nor write.

When large enough to leave his mother he left home and worked for whomsoever he could for wages. At the age of twenty-eight Thomas Lincoln built a cabin of his own in Kentucky and married Miss Nancy Hanks, daughter of another poor family of Virginia, who had moved to Kentucky. Two children were born of this union, the first being a daughter, Sarah, the younger being Abraham Lincoln, who became the sixteenth president of the United States.

When Abraham Lincoln was eight years of age his father sold his Kentucky homestead in 1820 and moved to Indiana, where two years later his mother passed away.

In 1820 Thomas Lincoln sold out his squatter's claim in Indiana and moved to Macon county, Illinois. By that time Abraham Lincoln had gained his majority and he struck out into the world to make a living for himself. Up to the time he was twenty-one years old Abraham Lincoln lived with his father and worked out, contributing his meager wage to help sustain his father's growing family.

Moves to Coles County.  
Thomas Lincoln moved in 1831 from Macon county to Farmington, a few miles southeast of Mattoon. This rural community was one mile north and one mile east of the Old Gordon cemetery. There he built a simple log cabin, and lived in it but a few months, when he again moved to a spot known to the early settlers as "Buck Grove," on account of two deer bucks having locked horns in a fight and died there. At this point he built a second cabin, and the family lived in it a few months when it was moved down to the trail leading from Goose prairie to Charleston. The Goose prairie road cabin, near the Old Gordon cemetery and Shiloh church in the last one in which Thomas Lincoln lived. He passed away in it January 15, 1851, having lived and worked in that community for twenty years.

The Thomas Lincoln cabin after having been taken apart was loaded on the cars for shipment to the World's Fair at Chicago, but that was the last ever seen of it. The supposition by many was and still is that some person regarded it as a source of mortification and therefore prevented its exhibition.

The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Abraham Lincoln loved the noble cadence of these accurately measured penultimate lines. He loved places like this. He himself has visited this spot. Where our feet are standing, his feet have stood, and with like reason, that here he might honor his father. A kindred respect for his father, then dead, and for his step-mother, then living three and one half miles from here, and now buried here beside her husband, brought Lincoln here, in February, 1861, in order that before he left for his inaugural as president he might pay his respect to the two people whose dust is buried beneath this stone, Thomas Lincoln and his second wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln. We pay our tribute to this couple today, and to the first wife of Thomas Lincoln, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who lies buried in Spencer County, Indiana.

Let us first record "the short and simple annals" of these three people, the father, the mother and the step-mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Thomas Lincoln, was born on Linville Creek, in that part of Augusta which is now Rockingham County, Virginia, January 6, 1775. His father, Abraham, was a captain in the militia and his name appears with that title in the Augusta county records for 1777 and the Rockingham county records for 1779. Abraham Lincoln married, not Mary Shipley, as is claimed in many books, but Bathsheba Herring, the marriage license bearing date of June 3, 1770. Abraham Lincoln married but once, and not twice, as is often asserted, and his widow survived him many years. The family migrated to Kentucky about 1782, and Abraham was killed by Indians, not in 1784, as is usually stated, but in May, 1786. Thomas Lincoln, a lad of eight, saw his father murdered, and witnessed also the swift revenge of his older brother Mordecai, a lad of fourteen, who took careful aim through a crack in the log wall of the cabin, and shot the Indian who had killed his father. This tragedy occurred, not where Louisville now stands, nor in Washington or Hardin county, though all these sites have been shown to me as those where the pioneer Lincoln was killed. He was killed on Long Run of Floyd's Fork, and his unmarked grave is probably within the inclosure of a little church yard even more primitive than that in which we are assembled, the Long Run Baptist Church, which stands upon land owned by the murdered man, Abraham Lincoln, the father of Thomas. Accompanied by other members of the Filson Club of Louisville, I have identified the Lincoln farm on Long Run, and the Lincoln spring and the site of the Lincoln home, and have made what I regard as a close approach to proof of the location of the pioneer Lincoln's grave. It is not likely that any future investigation will be more thorough or will greatly modify this conclusion. Thomas Lincoln's father sleeps in a little cemetery in Jefferson county, Kentucky, near to the Shelby county line, and on the brow of an elevation overlooking the stream—a situation not unlike that of our own surroundings this very hour, here in Illinois.

Thomas was the youngest of three sons of Abraham and Bathsheba Lincoln, his brothers being named Mordecai and Josiah. He had also one older sister Mary, and a sister two years younger than himself, Nancy, born in Virginia, March 25, 1780. She married William Brumfield, in 1801, her mother, Bathsheba, being alive and signing the required document consenting to the marriage. Bathsheba later lived with this daughter, Nancy, on Mill Creek in Hardin county, and is buried beside her. The grave of Bathsheba is not marked, and the exact date of her death is not known, but Nancy's grave has a tombstone which states that she departed this life at 7 o'clock, October 9, 1845, aged 65 years, 6 months and fourteen days.

Thomas Lincoln, the youngest son of these two pioneers, Abraham and Bathsheba, removed from Kentucky to Indiana in the autumn of 1816, and to Macon County, Illinois in the spring of 1820. He came to Goose Nest Prairie, three and one half miles from this spot. In 1822, and lived there until his death, January 17, 1851.

His first wife was Nancy Hanks, who was born in Virginia about 1784. The exact date of her birth is unknown, and the books that profess to give it previously have their declarations on no documentary proof. The Hanks family in that period kept no family records. She was approaching her twenty-third birthday when, on June 12, 1806, she married Thomas Lincoln. She was a tall, slender, and rather frail woman, of dark complexion, and a high forehead. From her, as he believed, her son Abraham inherited some of his best traits. She was a virtuous and worthy woman, and her son honored her memory. She died near Genyville, Indiana, October 5, 1818, at the age of 25. Her grave is worthily marked, and is surrounded by a park overgrown and maintained by the State of Indiana, Illinois, hardly following the example of her sister state, this day sends salutations from this sacred spot to the grave of Lincoln's own mother, yonder in the quiet repose of Southern Indiana.

Sarah Bush, a daughter of Christopher Bush, was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, December 12, 1785. She married, March 15, 1806, Daniel Johnston, the jailer of that county. There is a tradition that Thomas Lincoln had been a suitor for her hand before her first marriage; if so, she did not show good judgment in rejecting him. Her first husband died in October, 1818, leaving her with three small children and a heavy indebtedness. On December 2, 1819, she married Thomas Lincoln. Her possessions in furniture were considerable as compared with his, and as he had journeyed from Indiana back to Kentucky on horseback to court her, he had to borrow from his brother-in-law a wagon to transport her

and her belongings, including three children, to the new home in Indiana. From this it has been inferred that Thomas Lincoln owned no horses of his own at the time. On the contrary, he owned horses, one or more, and sometimes as many as four or five, from the time he reached the age of twenty-one until he left Kentucky. Moreover, and I have this story direct from Mrs. Bush's own relatives, she was unwilling to marry and leave unpaid debts behind her, and Thomas Lincoln was prepared for that emergency, and paid up her debts before their marriage. She has been greatly pitied for having married so shiftless a man as Thomas Lincoln, but that pity has been wasted. She needed a home and a husband quite as much as he needed a wife, and his two children and her three profited equally by the marriage. She died, December 10, 1860, and her grave has never been marked until this day, that witnesses the unveiling of a suitable monument to the memory of herself and her husband.

Thus, rapidly, I sketch the outlines of these three lives, and I shall now take leave of chronology, and attempt some estimate of the home life of this unpretentious couple, and the influences that assisted in shaping the career of Abraham Lincoln.

The family from which Thomas Lincoln was descended was a thoroughly respectable family. It was of pure English descent, and came to America first by way of Massachusetts. In the Revolutionary war there were many colonial soldiers named Lincoln from Massachusetts, and very few from any other state. Thomas Lincoln was of the sixth generation in descent from Samuel Lincoln, who was born in England about 1619 and settled at Hingham, Mass., before 1640. Of the second generation, Mordecai, son of Samuel and Martha Lincoln, of Hingham, Mass., was born June 24, 1657 and died at Scituate, Mass., Nov. 28, 1727. In the third generation, Mordecai, son of Mordecai and Sarah (Jones) Lincoln was born at Hingham, April 24, 1686, and died at Amity, Pa., May 12, 1737. In the fourth generation, John, son of Mordecai and Hannah (Salter) Lincoln, was born at Freshold, New Jersey, May 3, 1716 and died at Linville Creek, Virginia, in November 1788. In the fifth generation, Abraham, son of John and Rebecca (Flowers) Lincoln was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, May 13, 1744; married Bathsheba Herring, and removed to Rockingham County, Virginia. Here his three sons and two daughters were born. He migrated to Kentucky in 1782, and was killed there by Indians in May, 1786. This is a line of pure English descent, and it is not known that at any point there was inter-marriage with any widely divergent strain. All of these American ancestors of Thomas Lincoln could read and write, and so could he; though his education was very meager. Like all names on the map, the name Lincoln was misspelled.

I have seen hundreds of signatures and none of them spelled otherwise than Lincoln.

This was not a low-grade family. It was a good, average, undistinguished American family. The Lincolns in the hills of Kentucky were of the same stock as the Lincolns in the Blue Grass, and these were the same lineage as those in Tennessee and Virginia, and of close kin to those in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

I should like to correct few of the wrong impressions of Thomas Lincoln.

The first is that he was cheated out of his share in his father's estate by the rapacity of his eldest brother, Mordecai. A number of sentimental books and some that are of more sober character have sobbed over this situation. The fact appears to be that as the elder Abraham Lincoln died intestate, his eldest son, Mordecai, inherited the entire estate under the old English law of primogeniture then in force in Virginia and Kentucky. But it seems to have been well understood in such cases that the eldest son, who only had standing in court, acted as guardian of the interests of the younger heirs. Indeed, Mordecai himself was but fifteen when his father was killed. The court records, of course, do not show the transactions between Mordecai and his brothers. But the records do show that when the second son, Josiah, came of age, Mordecai sold land that had been his father's, and Josiah bought land for cash. They also show that when Thomas came of age, Mordecai sold more land, and soon afterward, Thomas bought for 118 pounds, cash, 238 acres of land on Mill Creek, in Hardin county, Kentucky, a farm, by the way, which all writers have erred about, but which has now been identified. Where did Thomas obtain 118 pounds? Presumably from the settlement of his father's estate. There is no slightest evidence that he was wronged by his brothers.

I am not prepared at present to state just what title Thomas Lincoln had to his several farms, though this is a story I intend some time to relate. He had better color of title than any boy now shows, and he had cash, not a vast sum, but an adequate sum, for each purchase.

I also want to refute the story that the Lincoln cabin was furnished in the most poverty-stricken fashion. I do not credit the stories of those who profess to remember this cabin, and either to have shared its privations or suffered its privations. I think all such stories untruthful. But we have the record of auction sales of a number of estates where Thomas Lincoln was present as a successful bidder, and he bought spoons, dishes and cooking utensils, as well as live stock and implements.

I want to relate one little incident, because it sheds a light on the character of Thomas Lincoln while he was still living in Kentucky. Rev. Louis A. Warren, to whom I am indebted for many discoveries of hitherto unknown facts about the Lincolns, discovered



the report of the commissioners appointed by the court of Hardin county to settle the estate of Dr. Daniel B. Potter of Elizabethtown. He had died leaving a widow and a large amount due him in unpaid fees. He also left debts amounting to \$1,560.35%. The commissioners were able to collect out of the accounts due him the total sum \$854.89%, leaving the estate still in debt \$695.46%. The commissioners record the names of the men from whom they had been able to collect, and Thomas Lincoln is among them, having paid in full his small balance of \$1.46.

Lincoln needed a doctor and he and Thomas Lincoln paid his bills.

He paid his taxes regularly, and he left no unpaid debts behind him when he left Kentucky or Indiana for Kentucky. He lived and died a peacemaker, thrifless, improvident and quite lacking in qualities that appeal to the imagination. But he was a good father, a good husband, I hold no brief for Thomas Lincoln. He was not a great man. But he was great enough to be the father of a man of outstanding greatness, an some of the qualities which made Abraham Lincoln great, his patience, his good humor, his kindness, his love of fun, he inherited from his father. We cannot afford to hold in light regard the man who gave to the world so great a son.

It is often alleged that Thomas Lincoln could not read or write until his marriage, and that his wife Nancy Hanks taught him to write. On the contrary, he could "huglingly write his name" as his son Abraham said, before he was married, while Nancy made no mark. That she could read, as we are assured by those who knew her; that he could do so we are assured by the fact that he did it.

It is often alleged that Thomas Lincoln was a religious vagrant. We are told on what appears to many to have been reliable authority of his going from one denomination to another. And we are told that it was his second wife, Sarah, who first induced him to unite with any church. On the contrary, Thomas Lincoln and his first wife Nancy Hanks were members of the Little Mount Baptist church in Hardin county, Kentucky, and when a Baptist church was organized on Little Pigeon Creek in Indiana, he united by letter, and his second wife Sarah Bush Lincoln by "experience." In this church, he served as trustee, often as moderator, sometimes as referee in matters of dispute, sometimes as a messenger to other churches, and when he and Sarah departed for Illinois, they brought their church letters in their pocket. There was no Baptist church here within reach, and the Lincolns became interested in the preaching of Rev. Thomas Goodman

of Charleston, a minister of the Church of the Disciples of Christ. With that congregation, in their 1 years, Thomas and Sarah Lincoln were affiliated. Rev. Thomas Goodman preached the funeral sermon for Thomas Lincoln. I am reliably informed by some who heard it that he heard at a distance of a mile. Mr. Goodman's sermon is preserved, but he spoke highly of Thomas Lincoln as a neighbor friend and a consistent Christian. Thomas Goodman stood here where our feet stand this day, and cot to this prairie dust the dust of Thomas Lincoln; and his old neighbors m ed for a man whom they held in of Charleston, a minister of the Church of the Disciples of Christ. With that congregation, in their 1 years, Thomas and Sarah Lincoln were affiliated. Rev. Thomas Goodman preached the funeral sermon for Thomas Lincoln. I am reliably informed by some who heard it that he heard at a distance of a mile. Mr. Goodman's sermon is preserved, but he spoke highly of Thomas Lincoln as a neighbor friend and a consistent Christian. Thomas Goodman stood here where our feet stand this day, and cot to this prairie dust the dust of Thomas Lincoln; and his old neighbors m ed for a man whom they held in regard as an honest and kindly and a good neighbor. People still living who remember the funeral the interment, and though they

children then and are aged now, we are glad of their testimony.

Thomas Lincoln was a farmer and a carpenter. He was not greatly skilled in either trade, but in neither was he wholly a failure. He was a fair, average country carpenter. He could frame a window or hang a door, or build a chest of drawers and do it well. Skill in the use of tools ran in the Lincoln family. I have seen samples of the carpenter work of a number of the Lincolns, both of Thomas Lincoln and of his kinfolk in Hancock county. They knew how to mortise and dove-tail and do the ordinary work that counted for skill in the carpentry of that day. The making of fine was a large part of the work of the carpenter of that day. I have seen the account book of Thomas Lincoln, the younger. Moreover, he made coffins, as Thomas did. Six dollars was his charge for a full sized coffin for a woman, seven dollars for a coffin for a man, and three dollars for a coffin for a child. Under our feet in this cemetery many of the coffins of Thomas Lincoln have decayed, but the dust they have inclosed.

Thomas Lincoln had some skill in farm surgery, and was sent for when neighbors had need of him. There are men living in this neighborhood who remember to have assisted in some of these rude but effective operations. The house where Lincoln died in 1831 and where his widow died in 1869 stood three and one-half miles from here. It was sold to a corporation just before the World's Fair in Chicago, and conveyed there for exhibition purposes. What became of it no one appears to know. But I have learned that Thomas Lincoln lived in that house only two days and one night. He lived in a round-log house on the same farm. A round-log house, you understand, is not a round house, but a square house, or at least a rectangular house, built of round or uneven logs. Round-log houses were the first homes of virtually all the pioneers. But the settlers aspired to live in square-log houses, that is, houses for which the logs have been hewn and better fitted and with wall surfaces more nearly plane. Such a house Thomas Lincoln aspired to own and occupy, but, not being an ambitious or excessively energetic man, he did not hasten the matter.

At last the new house was erected, a house of two rooms with a fireplace between, and it was of hewn logs. But by the time it was finished, Thomas Lincoln was a sick man. His step-daughter, Matilda, set up a loom and did some weaving in the new house, but Thomas Lincoln lay sick in the round-log house near by.

On the day before he died, he grew restless, and insisted on being moved. So a bed was set up in the new house, and his stepson, John D. Johnston, and old Ben Wright moved him to the new home. He looked around him in

content. He saw the smooth walls, hewn with his ax and broad-axe, and he was rested by the sight. It was in his own new house. He slept there that night, and rested better than he had been resting. The next day he died. They held the funeral in the new square-log house; and Parson Goodman, standing in the open door, and preaching to the women and children inside and the men outside, was heard not only by both these congregations, but by every one else within a radius of half a mile, as I have already stated.

Thomas Lincoln was about five feet and nine inches tall, and weighed about 180 pounds. He had a well rounded face, smooth shaven. His hair was cut round on a level of the bottom of his ears, it was not shingled. He was muscular and compactly built, and had a slight stoop. He was jovial, slow in thought and in movement, good natured, but a dangerous man when angry. He was not a tottler, but was temperate in his use of liquor, and in that day was reckoned abstemious. He was friendly and kind, and had deep grey eyes that sometimes looked hazy and then sometimes kindled with a deep light. He was known in this neighborhood as "Uncle Tommy" and later as "Grandfather Lincoln." His neighbors spoke well of him, and those here present who remember him will not regret from their childhood recollections anything to his discredit. He was not educated or learned or ambitious; he was not brilliant or of extraordinary ability; but he had good sense, sound judgment, a kind heart and moderate ability. He was reliable and worthy of respect.

Thomas Lincoln won the love of two good women. Nancy Hanks, the mother of his three children, was a slender, thoughtful young woman, with mirth and melancholy alternating in her character. From her, as Lincoln believed, he inherited his neatness and his capacity for sustained thought. She was a religious woman, and when she was dying she told her children to love God and he kept to such other, an admonition which they obeyed, holding her memory in high regard. The clouds fell heavily on her

whip-sawed coffin in the woods of Indiana, and her death fell as a cruel blow on the heart of her son Abraham. According to the custom of the country, the funeral service was held some months later when a traveling preacher named David Elfin was in the neighborhood.

The second wife of Thomas Lincoln, the second mother of Abraham Lincoln, was Sarah Bush, whose grave has waited 55 years for the monument which we erect today. But a monument has already been erected for her in the memory of those who knew of her influence upon Abraham Lincoln. She encouraged his love of learning, though she had none of it herself. She nurtured him in the simple virtues which she knew and practiced. She came to the home when the children, Abraham and his sister and their cousin Deola Hanks, were unkempt and ragged, and she washed and mended and patched and darned and brought cleanliness and comfort to the home. She was a true mother to Abraham Lincoln, and when he was about to leave his home in Springfield and begin his duties as president of the United States, she was one of the few visits which he made out of Springfield when he made out of Springfield, he visited her, and to this spot where his father lay buried, Abraham Lincoln saw to it that so long as she lived, she had a home of her own which even her improvident and her portunite relatives could not take away from her; and in that home she lived until her death.

We are erecting this monument above the graves of very humble people. If any one had called at the door of the round-log house over on Goose Nest Prairie and told Thomas and Sarah Lincoln that one day a monument like this would mark their grave, they would have been much bewildered. They could hardly have understood the information. But the monument is well deserved, and has waited all too long. The world has on its whole monuments enough, and some of them are of very doubtful value. But it has none too many that come

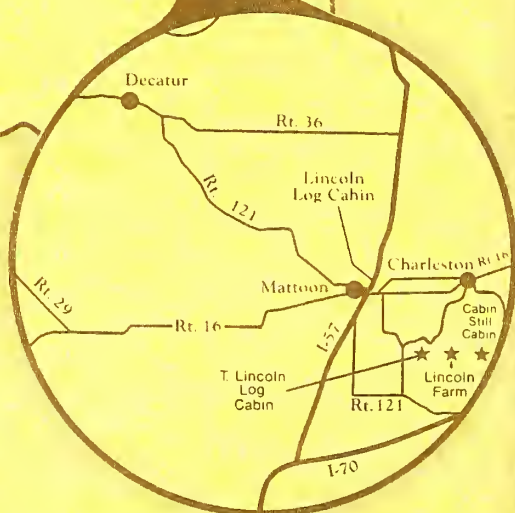
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memorialize the virtues that we honor in these two untitled Americans, these two modest servants of God. In honoring them we pay honor alike to Abraham Lincoln and to his first mother, Nancy Hanks. And we honor the rugged honesty, the simple dignity, the unpretentious piety, that characterized the home life of Thomas and Sarah Lincoln.

The most ominous sign in the life of today is the disintegration of the American home. America will be strong in proportion as her home life is clean and united and virtuous and strong. The inscriptions on this monument are of the simplest possible character. They bear only the names of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln and the years of their birth and death, and one simple sentence. But that sentence is one of noble eulogy: "Their Humble but Worthy Home Gave to the World Abraham Lincoln."

- The Cabin Still Cabin
- Abraham Lincoln "Lost Farm"
- Lincoln (Thomas) Log Cabin State Park



### "Come Home To The Cabin"

(See The Cabin Still cabin on Abraham Lincoln's Forgotten Farm on the Lincoln Heritage Trail in Coles County, Illinois, adjacent to the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park.)



Follow the  
Lincoln Heritage  
Trail signs.

## Warranty Deed to Abraham Lincoln's "Forgotten Farm"

to \_\_\_\_\_

from \_\_\_\_\_



*Old Weller*  
The Original  
**107**  
Proof Bourbon

is proud to offer you a small  
historically significant portion  
of the "Lost Lincoln Farm."\*

\* Lot 1 consists of one acre in the Abraham Lincoln Farm Plat. Since there are 6,272,640 square inches in an acre, your undivided interest may be regarded as being equivalent to one square inch of the one acre tract in which you have an undivided interest (tenancy in common).



# STATE OF ILLINOIS WARRANTY DEED

## Abraham Lincoln's "Forgotten Farm"

This Indenture Witnesseth, That the Grantor, Abraham Lincoln Land & Cattle Company, Inc., a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Illinois, and duly authorized to transact business in the State of Illinois, for and in consideration of One Dollar and Other Good and Valuable Consideration, and in further consideration of the covenants and agreements hereinafter contained, and pursuant to the authority given by the Board of Directors of said corporation, CONVEYS and WARRANTS unto

(fill in your name)

hereinafter jointly and severally designated Grantee, a 1/6,272,640th undivided interest in and to the following described real estate:



### "Come home to the Cabin"

Lot 1 of Abraham Lincoln Memorial Farm Plat as recorded in Book 5 of Plats, Page 21, in the Office of the county clerk and Recorder of Deeds of Coles County, Illinois; situated in Coles County, State of Illinois.

Said Plat being and describing a portion of the "Abraham Forty" purchased by Abraham Lincoln on October 25, 1841 from Thomas and Sara Bush Lincoln, his father and stepmother.

Whenever the term "Grantee" is used herein in this instrument, it shall pertain to the grantee, his successors and assigns, and any rights of the Grantee conferred herein in the validity, construction, interpretation or effect of this conveyance shall be determined and governed by the laws of the State of Illinois.

This is Page 1 of a two-page Deed conveying certain interests in realty. Page 2 is contained on the reverse side hereof.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN LAND & CATTLE COMPANY, INC.,



Nº 100203

By: Raymond W. Rogers Its President  
P.O. Box 1776 • Springfield, Illinois 62705

Legal, recordable deed to the equivalent of 1 sq. inch of Lincoln's Forgotten Farm.

*Register your deed with the  
Abraham Lincoln Memorial Farm Foundation*

P.O. BOX 1776 • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62705

send the form along with \$1.00

OR . . . You may legally record this Deed by contacting the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds of Coles County, Charleston, Illinois, by complying with the law and requirements of said County Officer covering recordation of instruments of conveyance. (The present statutory fee for recording this instrument is \$5.00.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nº 100203



The Grantee hereby covenants and agrees, as a further consideration for this conveyance, that the following terms, restrictions and conditions shall be applicable to the above-described property and shall be binding upon said Grantee and that the said terms, restrictions and conditions are as follows:

No improvement shall be built or erected upon the land by the Grantee, either of a permanent or temporary nature. Grantee will, at all times, observe any and all local laws and ordinances applicable to said premises. Grantee shall not permit any nuisance, either public or private, to exist on said property. In the event all or any portion of the above-described real property shall be sold, taken or conveyed in any way whatsoever as the result of any eminent domain proceedings, the proceeds received therefrom shall be paid forthwith to a nonprofit charitable organization or association. Grantee hereby expressly waives his right to have the above-described property partitioned and expressly waives all rights as against any co-tenant or any possessory rights in and to the property conveyed herein granted or conferred by the law of the State of Illinois or by Paragraph 4 of An Act to Revise the Law in Relation to Joint Rights and Obligations (Approved June 30, 1919, L. 1919, p. 633), enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, as amended now and from time to time. Grantee expressly waives his right to extract or claim ownership of any and all minerals and oil deposits found existing on said premises, and the same are expressly excepted from the above description. Grantee agrees that any and all costs and expenses necessary to affect title in purchasers hereafter shall be paid for by said Grantee. Said Grantee hereby expressly waives the presentment of a title opinion or title policy from the Grantor. Grantee acknowledges and agrees that the total liability on the part of the Grantor for any imperfection in the title to the above parcel or for any breach of warranty contained herein is and shall be no more than the consideration paid for this conveyance. This conveyance is made subject to all existing easements and right-of-way upon the property.

THE GRANTEE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN NOR BE ENTITLED TO OR HAVE ANY RIGHT IN AND TO ANY RENTS OR PROFITS DERIVED FROM THE USE OR DISPOSITION OF THE LAND. GRANTEE AGREES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THIS CONVEYANCE WAS NOT OFFERED BY THE GRANTOR NOR WAS THE CONVEYANCE ACCEPTED BY THE GRANTEE AS AN INVESTMENT OR A SECURITY.

The Grantor agrees to pay or cause to be paid all taxes and assessments which may be levied hereafter upon this property.

Any provisions of this conveyance or the terms, restrictions and conditions thereof prohibited by the law shall be ineffective to the extent of such prohibition without invalidating the remaining provisions of this conveyance.

The purchaser of the Warranty Deed above is hereby authorized as agent of the Grantor for the sole and limited purpose of effectuating the conveyance of the interest being conveyed herein to insert his name or the name of a nominee as Grantee in said Deed. Unless the purchaser inserts his name or the name of a nominee in accordance with the authorization referred to immediately herein-above, the conveyance of the interest referred to herein will be ineffectual.

This Deed is made, executed and delivered in pursuance of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of said corporation held on the 8th day of May, A.D. 1976.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, said Grantor has caused its corporate seal to be hereto affixed and has caused its name to be signed to these presents by the signature of its President and attested by the signature of its Secretary this 3rd day of June, A.D. 1976.



*This transfer of title is exempt from real estate transfer tax under Section 4(e) of "An Act in relation to a tax on the privilege of transferring title to real estate, providing the basis for the imposition thereof, and making an appropriation in connection therewith", (Approved July 17, 1967, L. 1967, P. 1716) as enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, in that the actual consideration for said transfer of title is less than \$100.00.*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN LAND & CATTLE COMPANY, INC.

By: Raymond W. Blaylock President  
Attest: Harold W. Whitehouse Secretary

#### About the Property

Although the rights conveyed by the Deed are limited as provided for in said Deed, including a limitation upon the right of possession, the Grantee has access to the whole acre, and it is available for inspection by the Grantee. The property is adjacent to the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park and is at the southern terminal of the Lincoln National Memorial Highway and is located approximately ten miles north of the intersection of State Route 130 and Interstate Route 70 near Greenup, Illinois and is located approximately ten miles southeast of the intersection of State Route 16 and Interstate Route 57 near Mattoon, Illinois.

Lot 1 consists of one acre in the Abraham Lincoln Farm Plat. Since there are 6,272,640 square inches in an acre, your undivided interest may be regarded as being equivalent to one square inch of the one acre tract in which you have an undivided interest (tenancy in common).

The conveyance contained on the Deed is exempt from the provisions of the Federal Land Sales Act under Regulations promulgated by the Office of Interstate Land Sales Registration in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (24 cfr., §1710.13). The purchaser is advised that the purchase price for this conveyance must be in an amount of money which is less than \$100.00. Do not pay more.

*This instrument prepared by Abraham Lincoln Land & Cattle Company, Inc., P.O. Box 1776, Springfield, Illinois 62705*

To order more deeds for friends, family, business associates, gifts, etc., fill in information below and mail to:

Abraham Lincoln Land & Cattle Company, Inc.  
P.O. BOX 1776, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62705

Deed(s) mailed to you postpaid

Send: \_\_\_\_\_ Lincoln Farm Deeds @ \$5.00 each (Send check or money order only; void where prohibited)

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
(fill in your name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street address or P.O. Box, city, state, Zip)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Decoration Day at Shiloh.

On Decoration Day there was a notable gathering at the Shiloh-Gordon cemetery. Among them were Hon. J. M. Weaver, Oakford, president of the Lincoln National Memorial Highway; Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, Chicago, noted writer and author of "From the Log Cabin to the White House;" E. S. Clayton, Martinsville, who has traversed the southeastern part of the state in search of the correct route which the Lincolns traveled on their way to Macon county in 1830; T. B. Shoaff, Shelbyville, 82 years of age and a relative of Dennis Hanks, and now editor of the Shelby County Leader; Geo. T. Balch and Thomas Allison, who shook hands with Abraham Lincoln on his last visit with his stepmother, Sarah Bush Lincoln, a month before he was inaugurated president; and then there were a large number of the descendants of those who had known and associated with Thomas Lincoln and their memories were replete with the traditions which had been handed down to them by their ancestors. In many respects it was a memorable occasion.

The addresses by Mrs. Gridley and Mr. Weaver were listened to with wrapped attention by the large congregation, and the short talks by Mr. Shoaff and Mr. Balch were equally well received, and then followed the social amenities which brought forth the feeling in the breast of each and everyone, "we are now in the land of the shrines of the Lincolns."

In a letter Mrs. Gridley writes: "Well, indeed, Decoration Day was really worth remembering. In the attendance there was an unusually good spirit of friendliness shown. It was, indeed, a very enjoyable occasion and my trip to the old places I visited thirty-eight years ago, were very familiar."



of Greek and Roman life and single figures of women—Mr. Millet is as successful as in the treatment of English *genre*, and he has also won a reputation as a painter of portraits. Mr. Millet passes the winter season in New York, but lives the rest of the year in London and at his charming home at Broadway in Worcestershire, where he has for neighbors Alma-Tadema, Alfred Parsons, Sargent, and other Englishmen and Americans of note. He was born at Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, and was graduated at Harvard in the class of 1869. He is vice-president of the National Academy of Design, a member of the Society of American Artists, of the American Water Color Society, and of the Royal Institute of Painters of London. He obtained his art schooling at the Antwerp Academy, and received first-class medals at the Antwerp exhibitions in 1873 and 1874. A prize of \$2500 was awarded to him at the American Art Association Exhibition in 1886 for the picture, mentioned above, which is in the Union League Club, and at the Paris Exhibition of 1889 he received a silver medal in the British section. Mr. Millet is widely known as the brilliant war-correspondent of the London "Daily News" in the Russo-Turkish war, and as a clever writer of fiction and descriptive articles. In the field of illustration he has contributed to the magazines a large number of excellent drawings, those of

life and campaigns in the Balkans being particularly noticeable for freshness and vividness in transcription, and marked by great truth of observation and artistic feeling for the picturesque.

*William A. Coffin.*

#### Corrections with Regard to the Washington Family.

MR. THOMAS M. GREEN of Danville, Kentucky, writes to correct two errors in the article on "The Mother and Birthplace of Washington" in *THE CENTURY* for April, 1892. On page 833 it is stated that Augustine Washington died April 12, 1740, the writer having supplied the last figure, which is obliterated in the entry in the family Bible, with a cipher. Mr. Green quotes from General Washington's letter to Sir Isaac Heard to show that the correct date of Augustine Washington's death was April 12, 1743. Mr. Green also says:

In a note at the bottom of page 832 referring to the godmother of General Washington, who held him in her arms at the baptismal font, the statement is made that "the godmother, Mrs. Mildred Gregory, was an aunt of the infant. She was the daughter of Lawrence Washington, brother of Augustine." The word "brother" in the note was evidently an inadvertence or a misprint. Lawrence Washington was the father of Augustine and of Mildred.

EDITOR.

## IN LIGHTER VEIN.

### Lincoln's Goose Nest Home.

NEAR the graveyard where Lincoln's father and stepmother rest, seven miles south of Charleston, Illinois, in a place then known as Goose Nest, the Lincolns made their final settlement on removing from Indiana. Here Abraham Lincoln assisted his father in "getting settled," as they called it. He helped him build a log cabin, and cleared for him a patch of ground, and when he saw him "under headway" in the new country, bade him good-by and started north afoot. He found employment not far from Springfield, Illinois, where the active part of his early life was spent. Though he did not linger long in the Goose Nest cabin, he was there long enough to stamp his individuality on every heart for miles around, and many are the stories told of his sojourn among these people. It was my lot to be born and reared a few miles from the early home of the Lincolns, and the incidents I shall relate were picked up in conversation with the old settlers about our neighborhood, all of whom knew Lincoln well. I was shown a bridge he helped to build, and many other relics of his boyhood days.

One very old man told me that he once rode up to Thomas Lincoln's cabin and inquired if he could spend the night there. He was informed that the house afforded only two beds, and one of these belonged to a son who was then at home; but if he would get the consent of this boy to take him in as a bedfellow, he could stay. The stranger dismounted, and soon

found the six-foot boy in the back yard lying on a board reading. The boy consented, and the man slept with him that night. The boy was Abraham Lincoln, and the other never tires of telling how he spent the night with the future President.

Tarlton Miles, a veterinary surgeon of Charleston, told me that he had seen Lincoln driving an ox-team into town with cord-wood to sell. One night Lincoln was detained till late selling his wood. It grew dark, and "Abe" thought best not to attempt to drive home. As the Miles homestead was just out of town toward the Lincoln cabin, Lincoln stopped there overnight. His entire outfit, in the way of wearing-apparel, consisted of homespun jeans trousers, knit "galluses," a linsey shirt, and a straw hat. Miles's father sat up till midnight talking with Lincoln, and was amazed at the wisdom he displayed.

I spent four years in Charleston, as salesman in a large dry-goods house there, and as most of the country folks traded at this store, I often enjoyed rare treats in the way of chats with the old settlers about "Abe," as they loved to call him. As I measured off calico for them they measured off "yarns" for me. I said to one old settler, "Did you ever have a hint of Lincoln's greatness while he lived near you?" "No," he said, as he took a chew of "Lincoln green," "I never did. I had six boys, an' any one of 'em seemed as peart to me as Tom's Abe did—'cept perhaps in book-readin'. He always did take to that, an' on that account we uns used to think he

## IN LIGHTS

would n't amount to much. You see, it war n't book-readin' then, it war work, that counted. Now, talkin' about rail-splittin', any of my boys could beat Abe any day he lived, an' any one of 'em could run him a middlin' tight foot-race; an' thess why he should beat 'em in the big race for fame, I can't tell."

"Uncle Johnny" Gordon is an odd character known in Charleston as the "Sassafras Man." In the spring months he may be seen offering for sale neat little bunches of sassafras root, which he has carefully gathered, and which he declares is a "balm for all wounds." For "yarns" of the early days on Goose Nest prairie, and for recollections of Thomas Lincoln, one has only to buy a bunch of sassafras, then make his wants known, and Uncle Johnny will supply them, heaped up and running over. The quality of Gordon's recollections may not be the best, but the quantity can't be questioned.

At the time the Lincolns settled at Goose Nest Dan Needham was the champion wrestler in Cumberland County. This county joins Coles, the one in which the Lincolns lived. Needham had often been told that he would find his match in Tom Lincoln's boy Abe, but he would boast that he could "fling him three best out of four any day he lived." At last they met. It was at a house-raising on the Ambraw River. "Raisin's" at that time brought "neighbors" from many miles around, and I am told that at this one they came from as far south as Crawford County, more than forty miles away. Thomas Lincoln came, and with him his boy Abe. After the work of the day, in which Abe and Dan matched handspikes many times, a "rassle" was suggested. At first Abe was unwilling to measure arms with Dan, who was six feet four and as agile as a panther; but when Thomas Lincoln said, "Abe, rassle 'im," Abe flung off his coat, and the two stood face to face. Four times they wrestled, and each time Needham was thrown.

At the close of the fourth round the combatants again stood face to face, Abe flushed but smiling, Dan trembling with anger. However, one glance at the honest, good-natured face of his opponent cooled his rage, and, extending his rough palm, he said, "Well, I'll be —!" Ever after this they were warm friends. Needham survived Lincoln many years, and though he was a strong Democrat, he had nothing but good words for Abe. Several of his boys still live near the old homestead in Spring Point township, Cumberland County, Illinois. One daughter, the wife of W. P. Davis,—a brother of the writer,—resides on a farm near Roseland, Nebraska. Uncle Dan, as we called him, now sleeps in a quiet churchyard hidden away in a deep forest. A braver heart never beat; and though his life was humble, I am sure that he did not lack for a welcome into the Eternal City.

*Alonso Hilton Davis.*

## Lincoln Markers

Charleston News.

A committee of the Lincoln Memorial Trail is putting up nine signs or markers over town designating places where Abraham Lincoln was active as a lawyer and statesman. Among the signs will be one on the north side of Monroe and Fifth where Dennis Hanks once lived, one at Sixth and Monroe, the site of the old Bunnel tavern where Abe stayed all night after the debate with Douglas, one at the court house where he lost his runaway slave case, and one on the Daily News corner where Abe was given a reception after his election to the presidency, in the old Mount & Hill hall which was destroyed by fire in 1923. The signs are made of wood with painted lettering, but may be later replaced by bronze tablets.



Harris Dante,  
230 South Fifth Street,  
Terre Haute, Indiana.

900 Words.

### LINCOLN'S EARLY LIFE AND ENVIRONMENT

The formative period in the life of Abraham Lincoln was passed in Spencer County, southern Indiana. The years from seven to twenty-one of his life were spent on his father's farm. A granite monument stands in the front yard of a public schoolhouse and marks the exact spot of his Indiana home. An inscription on the monument reads, "On this spot Abraham Lincoln lived from 1816 to 1830."

Across Pigeon Creek, opposite the site of his boyhood home, at the top of a sloping hillside is the grave of Abraham Lincoln's mother. Abraham was nine years old when his mother died. It is said that Abraham assisted his father in making the rough coffin in which she was buried. There was no minister available to conduct a funeral service; but later Abraham, being of a religious turn of mind as was his mother, secured the service of an itinerant preacher who held, at the grave, a fitting memorial of this honored Christian mother. For many years the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln was strangely overlooked; but now two stones mark the resting place of this woman so highly favored, the mother of our great president. A Mr. Studebaker of South Bend, Indiana, visiting the grave and noting the absence of a memorial, ordered a marble stone to be placed at the head of the grave. Later the State of Indiana erected a larger monument which stands in front of the one set up by the generous and patriotic Mr. Studebaker.

I saw in a home in Evansville, Indiana, a letter written by Mr. Lincoln to an old friend. It was written on the eve of Mr. Lincoln's departure for Washington to assume the duties of President. He expresses regret that press of matters would prevent him from visiting his old friends and the grave of his gentle mother; but he hoped to do so later. This hope was crushed by the assassin's bullet.

After the death of Abraham's mother, and the coming of his step-mother, Sallie Bush Lincoln, who brought with her "considerable plunder," the Lincoln dwelling house was improved and well furnished for that day. Sallie Bush Lincoln was a woman of more than average intelligence and energy--we would say pep. She became attached to young Lincoln, and encouraged him in his pursuit of an education. This affection was reciprocated by Abraham. To this he gave proof by a visit to her while President-Elect.

Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham, was not shiftless as perhaps we have been led to think. He did not like farming. He was a carpenter, preferred to work with tools. Doubtless, in the old neighborhood, still in use are pieces of furniture he made with the aid of Abraham. In a home in Evansville is a cabinet Abraham made with his father's assistance.

Thomas Lincoln must have been a man of agreeable personality and worthy parts or he could not have won the love of two such women as Nancy Hanks and Sallie Bush.

Spending a few days recently where Lincoln grew up I fortunately met the son and grandson of David Turnham. The son now lives in Evansville and the grandson on "the old David Turnham farm." They were both raised in the Lincoln Community and in a Lincoln atmosphere. They knew the Lincoln traditions. They related many incidents they had heard David Turnham--who knew Lincoln--tell about the Lincoln home and life, especially stories of "Abe."

Young Lincoln had but little school privileges. He states that he did not go to school a "whole year, all put together." The schools he attended were called "blab schools," the scholars not only recited but studied "out loud." They used Webster's Spelling Book. Young Lincoln was an apt student and was a famous speller. The Bible was their Reader. This may account for the fact that in his speeches and writings Mr. Lincoln often quoted from the Holy Scriptures. Is it not strange that the book, which at one time was the only reader in our schools, is now scarcely read in them?

As a youth Abraham Lincoln was strong, athletic, studious and alive to his environment. He was accommodating and polite. If he ate peas and potatoes with a knife, so did his neighbors. On the Turnham farm, according to my informants, are rails that young Lincoln made. While a hired hand on this farm he found a discarded copy of the Revised Statutes of Indiana which started him on his career as a lawyer.

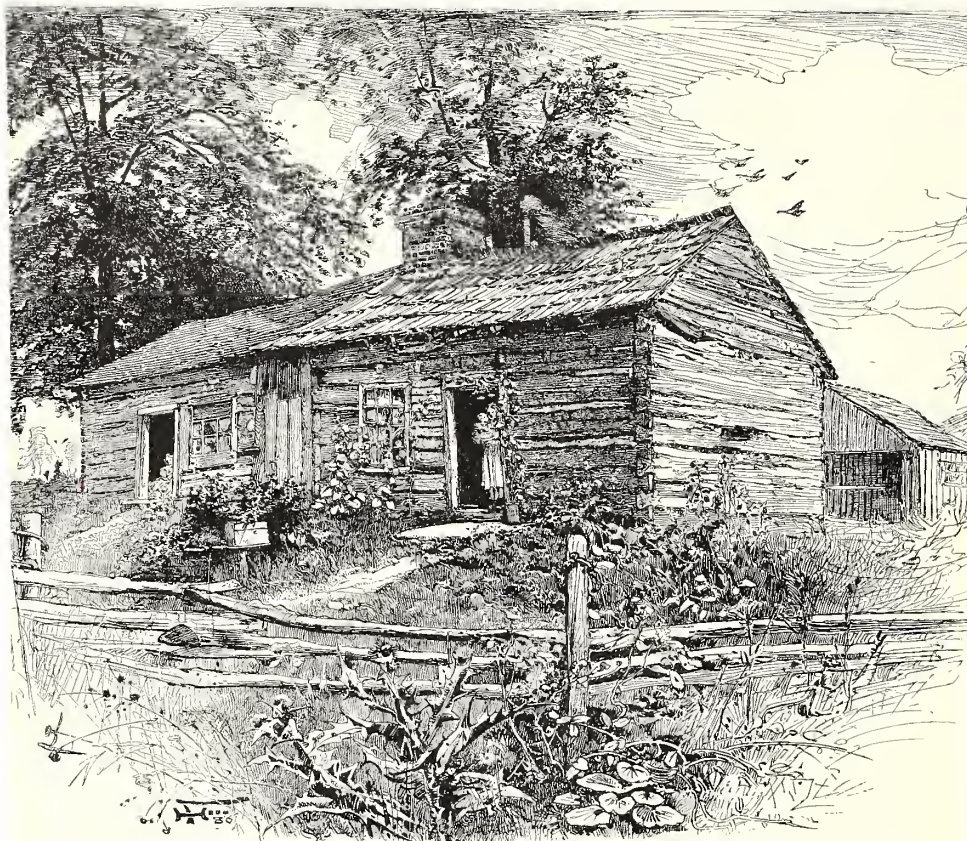
The Lincolns moved from Indiana to Illinois in March 1830. They had large strong wagons and ox teams. David Turnham is the author of this story told me by his grandson. The Lincolns traveled past the village of Dale crossing the Wabash at Vincennes. Preparing for the journey Thomas Lincoln traded Mr. Turnham an old steer for a young one. The first night out the young steer wandered from camp and the next morning was seen standing at the Turnham barnyard gate. In a short while Abraham appeared on the scene. The steer was let into the barnyard and cornered. Young Lincoln leaped from the fence onto the back of the obstreperous young ox, and striking the frightened young beast on the sides with his feet, and its neck with his hands, he drove and guided the steer back to camp. Mr. Turnham always laconically added, "That was the last I ever saw of the steer and the future president of the United States--Abraham Lincoln."

**N.B. Sent to ONLY ONE paper within or adjacent to your territory.**

NOTE:

Mr Dante's grandfather owned a farm near Salem, Illinois that adjoined Abraham Lincoln's farm. The uncle's and Mr. Dante's father were very good friends of Lincoln's.





CABIN ON GOOSE-NEST PRAIRIE, NEAR FARMINGTON, ILLINOIS, WHERE THOMAS LINCOLN LIVED AND DIED.

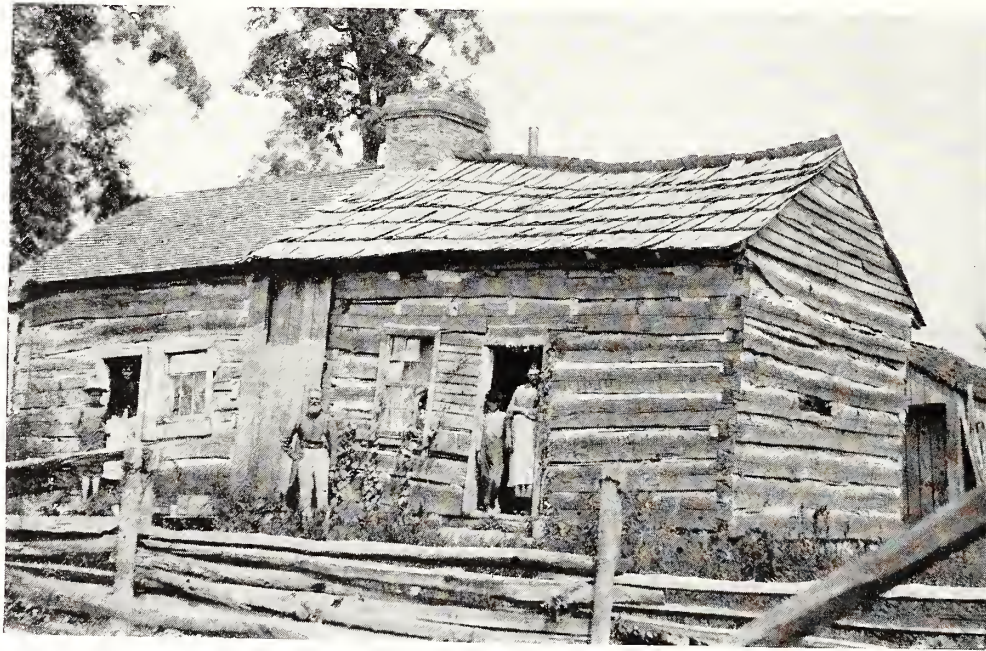
## Annual Review (Concluded)

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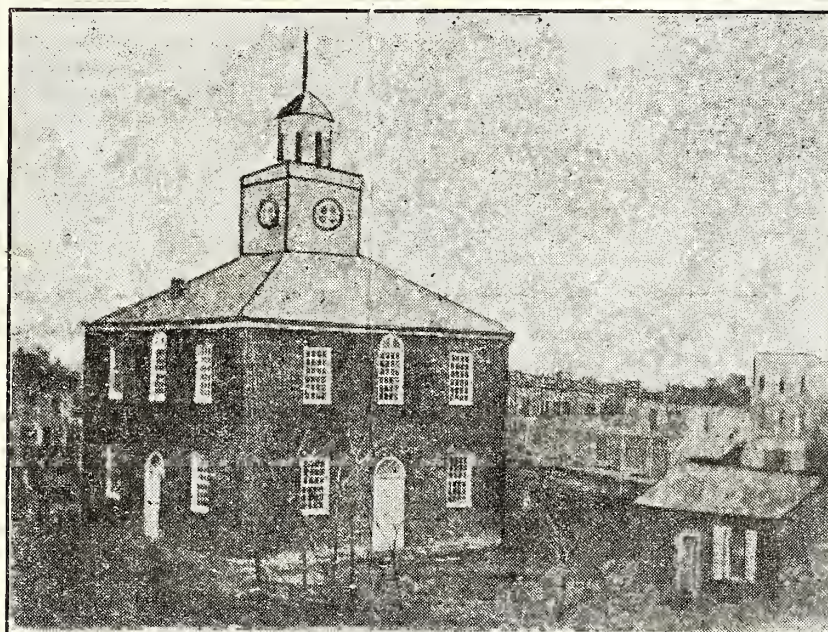
THE CABIN NEAR CHARLESTON, ILL., BUILT IN 1861 BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND HIS FATHER.—From the Story of Chicago and National Development. The Little Chronicle Co., Chicago





THE HOME OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN WHEN IN HIS TENTH YEAR.



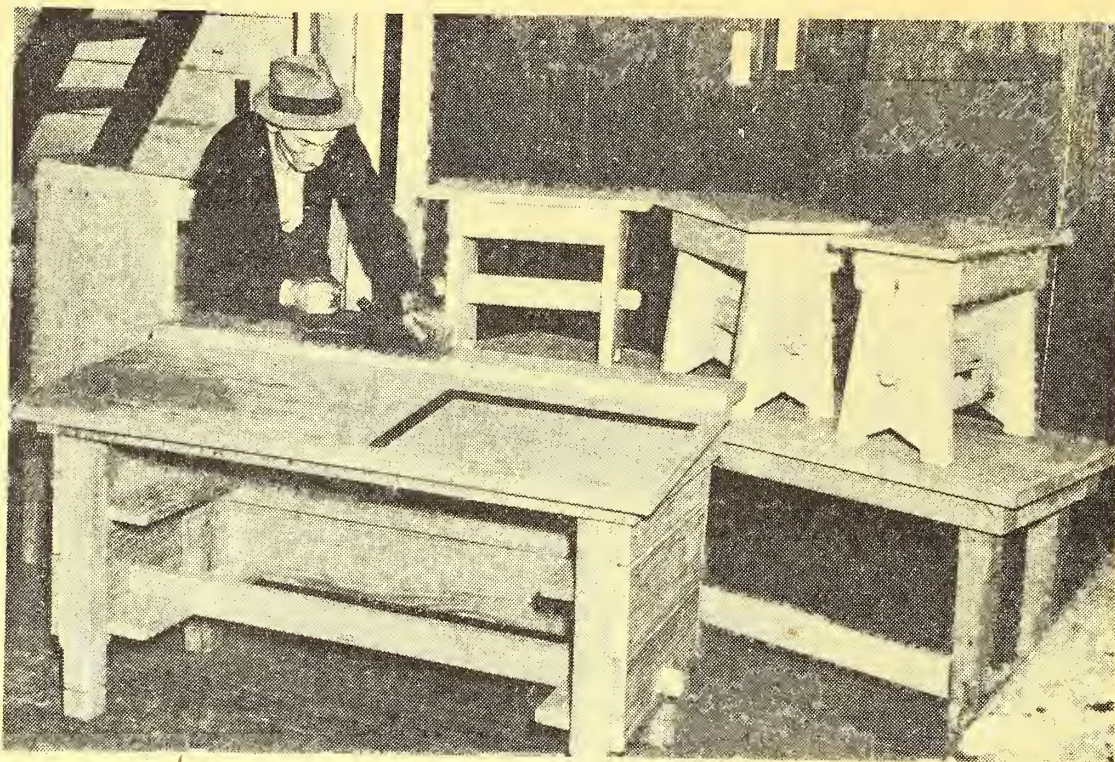


THE FIRST COURT HOUSE built in Coles County, erected in 1835 at a cost of \$5,000.00, by a contractor named Munsel, and in which some of the most distinguished men of their day practiced law. Among the most noted who figured in cases which are entered on the dockets of the county, were Lincoln, Douglas, Trumbull, Shields, Logan, Palmer, McClelland, Connolly, Yates, Oglesby, Ficklin and Linder. It was in this old court house that Lincoln appeared as counsel for a slave-holder who was trying to recover his human chattels, and was defeated by Linder and Ficklin. The trial attracted national attention and large numbers of people from all over the country attended. In 1858 the north wing was built and in 1864 the south wing was added, together with other improvements, which constituted the old structure which was torn down when this present handsome court house was erected.



*Decatur Review, Ill.*

### SHAPES LOG COURTHOUSE FURNITURE



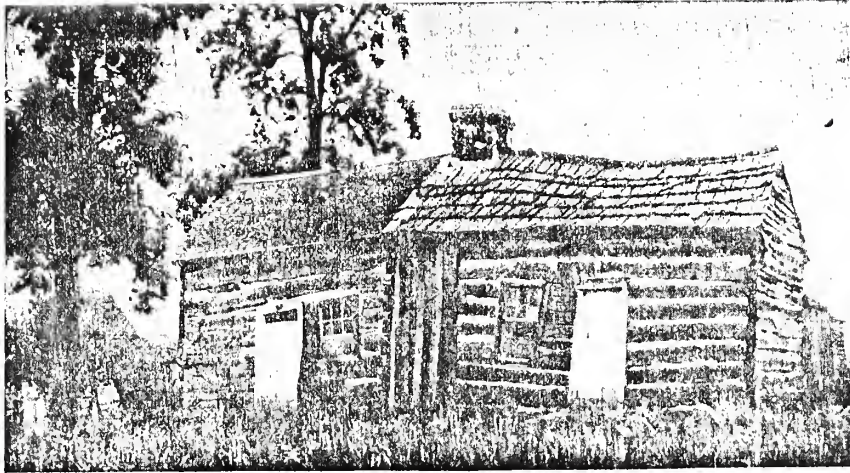
Several pieces of the furniture to be used in refurbishing Macon county's first courthouse, now located in Fairview park, are completed and ready for staining.

Archie Hedenberg, of 1007 South Main street, is shown putting the finishing touches on the judge's table.

(Herald-Review photo)



## Coles County Cabin

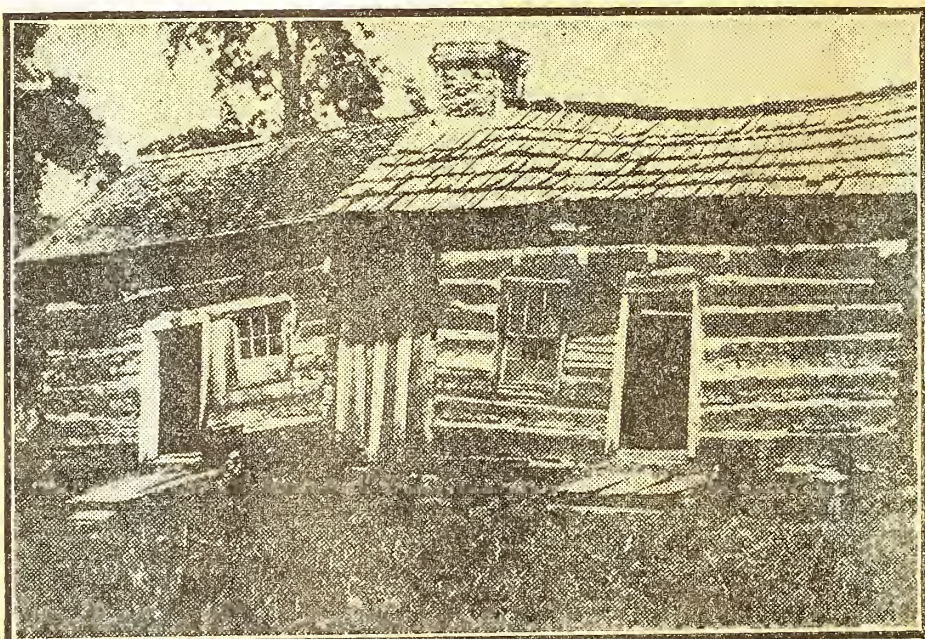


Coles County Cabin in which Abraham Lincoln's Father and Stepmother Died

## Stands the Test of Time







☛ The boy who lived in this log house near Farmington, Ill., wrote: "I will study and prepare myself, and it may be my turn will come." And down the ages all will know Lincoln's turn came. Wide World Photos

